

THE
HISTORY
OF
MAJOR BROMLEY
AND
MISS CLIFFEN.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

*Thrice blessed they that master so their blood,
To undergo such maiden pilgrimage!
But earlier happy is the rose distill'd,
Than that, which, withering on the virgin thorn,
Grows, lives, and dies, in single blessedness.*

Shakespeare.

LONDON.

Printed for J. WILKIE, in St. Paul's Church-
Yard, and T. LOWNDs, in Fleetstreet.

MDCCLXVII.

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Printed for J. W. Smith, in the Strand, near the Temple Church, in the year 1794.

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THE
HISTORY
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C H A P. I.

*Contains a trite description. — An accident
neither interesting nor uncommon. — An
unexpected rencounter, which is product-
ive of a conversation-piece the Reader
may or may not approve, according to his
particular taste or inclination.*

ONE dismal dreary morning, in the
winterly month of November, did
a male servant of sir CHRISTOPHER
CLIFFEN's, bart. alight at a little hatch-
ed ale-house, by the road side, betwixt
Coleshill and Birmingham, in order to ob-
tain some small refreshment.

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As he was well known and respected by the host and hostess, he was received with the utmost cordiality; his horse duly attended to, and himself conducted to a tolerable fire in the kitchen.

IN a dark corner of the dark chimney, adjoining to an old oaken screen, stood a high wicker chair, occupied, at that juncture, by a young fellow who had been thrown from his horse, within a few yards of the *Duke of Cumberland's head*, as the vilely daubed sign was called.

BEFORE this unfortunate guest was placed an ungain three legged stool, which supported, with becoming dignity, an earthen pot of warm *Warwickshire-ale*, a nut-brown loaf, and a slice of cheese.

MASTER JACOB, said the landlord (addressing the baronet's servant, as he ushered him into the kitchen) I am heartily glad you was so near shelter before the storm came on, it will be a terrible one indeed, added he (the rain beginning to beat forcibly against the miserable window) but, brushing on for the chimney corner, as the most eligible place at that juncture, here is house room sufficient, continued he, for we have *noa* company at present, saving that ill fated *gemmon* (pointing to the occupier of the wicker chair)

chair) whose vicious beast has played him a trick: ah, cried he, shaking his head in a pity-feeling manner, I am sure my dame's heart bled for him when she saw him down.

JACOB advanced, nothing doubting. And, taking his stand diametrically opposite the stranger, gave him a condoling nod; telling him, at the same time, that he was sorry for his mishap, but hoped he had *na gotten* much damage.

THE young fellow lifted up his head, in order to make proper acknowledgements for this kind salutation, when JACOB, having an opportunity of viewing his face, fell to capering and dancing about, like a mad man, to the no small astonishment of the landlord and his bruised guest: at length, throwing his arms about the neck of the latter, in a wild kind of transport, he bellowed out, my brother JOE, my dear brother JOE, what has brought thee hither?

JOE, having disengaged himself from the unexpected and rough gripe of his boisterous brother, and reconnoitered him a few moments, answered his interrogatories very satisfactorily. Then returning and recongratulating each other on their happy meeting, and JACOB be-

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ing accommodated with a broken backed wooden chair for the convenience of sitting near the fire, they began to enter upon the particulars of their several situations.

JACOB, who was a shrewd lout, took a hearty pull at the *good creature*; then, pushing the mug towards his companion with one hand, and scratching his disorderly looking head with the other, said their house was in confusion; for why, his worship was taken mortal bad some few mornings ago; you mun think, continued he, that the head of a family's being sick, mun make some stir *speckusly* when there is good picking all are upon the gape. Much carrion many crows, but all's one for that, to be sure every one knows it would be a fine windfall for master ARTHUR, if so be his worship should kick one over the perch.

BUT hald a bit, hald a bit JACOB, said JOE (claping his brawny fist upon the stool, the more effectually to interrupt his curious harangue) his worship has more children than he.

AYE, aye, truly, replied JACOB (narrowly escaping an ugly accident by attempting to lean back in his chair, which

which would not admit of such indulgence) there is master JAMES the *mar-
chant*, as good a soul as ever trod in shoe-
leather. And miss MARGARET, who,
between you and I, is not much better in
her temper than she should be; but, least
said soonest mended, mark that, my
boy; again attacking the half empty pot,
then recovering his breath, and changing
his accent for the dolorous, he resumed,
and there ought to have been master
HENRY.—Some folks, Jox, will have a
deadly score to wipe off upon his ac-
count; but mum, cried he (repeating his
draught, by way of expletive) it is no
bread and butter of our's.

You or I, JACOB, said JOE, with an
honest simplicity, could never sleep in
our beds, if we were to wrong any one,
for fear of the devil; but, lord help us,
exclaimed he, with uplifted hands, it is
clear another thing with the gentry, they
never mind *he* nor his *nimps* nother!

WHY, thou block-head! returned JACOB,
with an air of superiority—if they were
to fear him—the world would soon be
at an end—that's all.

I DON'T see that, said JOE, greatly dis-
appointed at his brother's abrupt conclu-
sion, having gaped three seconds, in ex-
pectation

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pectation of hearing (for he looked upon JACOB to be high learned) a bright reason assigned for gentle-folks assuming so bold a privilege.

WELL, but (resumed JACOB, disregarding his brother's dissatisfaction) all this *argufies* nothing with respect to master HENRY (here the landlord stepped in and became one of the company) aye JOE, he was the most *pitiful*, free hearted, handsome gemmon, one should see on a summer's day, as mine host SPLAXON can witness, casting a look of appeal upon the landlord.

SPLAXON opened his mouth, in order to corroborate JACOB's testimony, but he proceeded, I may say, without disparagement, he was the flower of the flock, altho' his worship will not suffer his name to be spoken afore him, *because* he did not marry a *bugbies* fortune like master ARTHUR.

THE more's the pity, said JOE, sighing from a genuine compassionate impulse; but gentlefolks will do as they will.

I TELL thee, said JACOB, hastily interrupting him, it is better following the plough than serving some of them. — Though, indeed, added he, in a less impatient accent, I must confess, that, as our
butler

butler says, bad's the best now a days, and therefore he's a foolish ninny that will not bear small evils without flouncing.

GOOD masters, said SPLAXON (adding a fresh billet to the declining fire) make good servants. Had but his honour master HENRY lived to have seen this day, *he'd* have *showed* you the odds of it. — I could cry like a new-born babe, continued he, when I but think how he was turned adrift, good soul as he was, for no crime in the *varsal* world. An it had *naa* been for him, my dame would have surely been lost when she lay in of our MICHAEL, nor should I have had a place at this hour to put my head in. — You know, said he, addressing JACOB, how he would come, and come so joyful to gi us his little pocket money as he received it, and how he would *na* let his worship rest until he had bated twenty shillings a year in our rent, and granted us a long lease. Aye, could I but live to see him restored to his right, added the poor, grateful, afflicted landlord (wiping his eyes with the corner of his neckcloth) I could die in peace, but God will bless him, master JACOB, wheresoever he is gone, and prosper all his undertakings.

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IT is a folly to talk, SPLAXON, said JACOB, but the sun does not shine this day upon his *feller*.

HIS *feller*, indeed! quoth SPLAXON, tossing up his honest head in defiance; his *feller* is not to be *fund* in all christendom, I'll uphold it, and that's a bold word. I am never weary of talking of him.

BUT, where art thou now, JOE? interrogated JACOB. JOE fetched a deep sigh, hung down his head, and was silent.

WHAT, cried JACOB, out of place out of heart.

JOE gave an assenting nod. Well well, I see how it is; continued he, but don't be cast down, my boy; the *worser* luck now the better another time, thou shalt go home with me, and *mabap*, instead of *loobying* all thy days at cattle-keeping, we may make a man of thee. I am to thee as a father (being a dozen years elder than him, neighbour SPLAXON) and will act a fatherly part by thee. Thou art not disabled by thy fall; art?

JOE replied, that he had gotten no other hurt than a hearty *douce* upon the *nab*, and a broken elbow; and now that he had recovered his fright he would follow him to the world's end. That the hostler at the king's head at *Birmingham*,
had

had *hope* him to the mare which he had promised to return sound and speedily.

NE'ER trouble thy *noddle* about that, said JACOB, for *as* we but get safe home we shall not want the means of returning her whilst his worship lives; for why the doctor's house who tends him is at *Birmingham*, and his man ZEIKLE is as honest a lad as ever broke bread.

THESE matters being adjusted to their satisfaction, the storm abated, and themselves sufficiently refreshed, they remounted their several animals (having previously exchanged many hearty squeezes of the fist with the landlord, and good wishes with the landlady) and set forth for the seat of sir CHRISTOPHER CLIFFEN, which was situated at about a quarter of a mile's distance, from a pleasant heath in *Warwickshire*.

JOE made a most woeful appearance, his jaws being tied up with an ill looking coloured handkerchief and his cloaths wretchedly besmeared, they nevertheless jogged on in a self-satisfied manner, beguiling the hours with social chat.

C H A P. II.

Contains some essential hints for the better comprehending the ensuing history.—Many new personages introduced to the Reader's acquaintance.—The character of a father natural enough, though not the most amiable in the world.—A love adventure.—A wedding, with much bustle and confusion.

WE shall take the opportunity of the brother's journeying, to bring the reader acquainted with the CLIFFEN family in general.

SIR CHRISTOPHER, who was now supposed to have attained the final period of his human existence, was, in many respects, a valuable member of society; as he never failed to countenance and encourage industry, or relieve the indigent; his servants passed their days in peace, and his tenants were strangers to oppression.

THESE good qualities were, nevertheless, in great measure, obscured by that too common foible, an over sollicitude for the perpetuation of the name and grandeur of his family, to which he was
an

an absolute dupe; and, though a foible in the first instance, generally terminates in the most blameable injustice.

HEAVEN had bestowed three sons and one daughter upon him; but his ruling passion abovementioned, directed his whole attention to the single purpose of accomplishing and enriching his heir, and incited him to treat his other children with coldness and neglect.

THE heart of sir CHRISTOPHER would exult with ambitious delight, when he contemplated Mr. HENRY's agreeable form, or listened to his engaging conversation; and he would, as it were, prophetically exclaim, upon such occasions, How will he grace the house of peers! — How evidently is he calculated for the highest dignities! —

BUT, unfortunately, the desires of this rising sun were humble and unambitious. He early contracted a prejudice in favor of merit though unfavored by fortune, and stupidly preferred the society of a sensible and ingenuous trader to all the flutter and parade of the most fashionable fop; a stupidity that was amply punished by a train of heavy misfortunes, though unrenounced even with his latest breath.

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AT the same school with Mr. HENRY CLIPPEN was a young gentleman situated, whose genius and disposition soon engaged his warmest attachment; they were ranged in the same class, performed their exercises and their sports together, and, when removed to the university, had the happiness (as they deemed it) to have apartments contiguous to each other.

THIS youth, whose name was ROBINSON, was intended for a physician, notwithstanding he had a natural aversion to that study; for, as it was his misfortune to be wholly dependent upon a whimsical, narrow-souled, illiterate relation, he was not permitted to chuse for himself.

IN this relation's opinion (who was a refined trader) a physician and a gentleman were synonymous terms, nor could he comprehend why genius and capacity should not be as obtainable at the university, as the rules of arithmetic in a computing house, or that his nephew, supported by his fortune, could do no other than shine in whatsoever employment he should think proper to force him into.

MR. ROBINSON would not have hesitated to comply with his uncle's injunctions, how little soever they might correspond with his own inclination, had not his
his

his situation been the most untoward and discouraging imaginable.

THE man who derives an estate from his own industry has an undoubted right to bestow it upon whomsoever he pleases. Young ROBINSON was the last person upon earth that would have murmured at so just a privilege, had not some part of his uncle's conduct suggested apprehensions that could not fail to wound a delicate or reflecting mind.

THE preceding year to his being placed at college, an unlucky accident threw an agreeable (though unworthy) young woman into the old gentleman's way, whose influence over him soon became altogether unlimited, in the double capacity of his companion and house-keeper.

A poor physician, in this youth's opinion, was the poorest of all beings; and he would therefore have gladly engaged in some profession where diligence and industry alone would have been advantageous, as a lenitive, in case his uncle should make a different disposition of his large possessions, than he flattered him he intended. He had ventured more than once to remonstrate with him upon the subject,

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subject, but had ever the mortification to find him immovable.

THE misfortune this young gentleman labored under, though severe in it's kind, was, by no means, a singular one; innocent children's suffering for the errors or vices of their parents being a calamity that every age has experienced, without preventing it's perpetuation.

His father was master of many real accomplishments, and would unquestionably have made a figure in life had not the single merit of prior existence to his brother given him presumptive claim to a handsome patrimony. Flattering prospects are sufficient of themselves to mislead a lively unguarded imagination, what effect can we then expect them to produce in conjunction with that bane of youth, false praise? — We are indeed as naturally incited to tickle the ears of our superiors, from a view to our own interest, as we are restrained from bestowing too much consideration upon our inferiors, by the palpable absurdity of the thing. — But O happy equality, what rational felicity is thy gift! — By thee our vanity is deprived of it's poignance, our folly is checked in it's full career! — For thou causest the pride of superiority to drop

drop it's wing; whilst friendship, unoppressed by greatness, and unsuspected of servility, glows with more than native beauty! —

YOUNGER sons, as if born out of due time, are early informed of their fate, commerce or a commission. — Mr. ROBINSON's uncle was, from his very infancy, instructed in the excellent art of accumulating. He knew the value of every different specie; and could trace a little unit, through its various multiplications, until it was swelled to a substantial plumb: whilst the heir imbibed the more elegant notions of circulating and dissipating what his ancestors had provided for him.

NATURE had most peculiarly formed Mr. ROBINSON's father for destruction. Gay and volatile in his disposition, mild and indolent in his temper, and utterly unacquainted with those needful, but mechanic virtues, prudence and reflection. The worn out track of propriety appeared beneath his consideration. He was sometimes however startled at the extravagances he was guilty of, but he had the consolation to know they were fashionable, and that to strive against the stream was the work of a SISIPHUS; he therefore glided

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glided on until he unhappily found himself cast upon a dreary shore, devoid of every means of subsistence or friendly support. — In plain English he became insolvent.

It was not surprising, that such proceedings should give mortal offence to his parsimonious brother, or, that as a slight mark of his resentment, he should suffer him (notwithstanding his unbounded affluence) to experience all the horrors of a ruined fortune.

His children (for he had one of each sex) he however felt some compassion for, and, with the consent of their wretchedly misjudging father, took them under his protection, who soon procuring his enlargement by the interest of one friend, who had not *even* forgotten him in adversity, he went abroad; where the change of climate and vexation in a short time terminated his life.

THE trader felt an unnatural exultation at his brother's dissolution, considering himself as no less relieved from an incumbrance, than delivered from disgrace; he was not however wholly depraved, but experienced some tender sensations on reflecting that his nephew and niece were at length deprived of every shadow of dependance except upon himself. —

That

That he had performed more for them than the author of their existence. And, should he abandon them, to whom could they fly for protection? The part he had acted, and was still determined to act by them appeared, to his imagination, in the most meritorious light, and he very reluctantly quitted the soft pleasure his self complacence and approbation gave him.

MR. ROBINSON and his sister sensibly perceived that their uncle's attachment to them had received new vigor, though from what source they were wholly ignorant, for that gentleman very prudently forbore communicating the news of their father's death, lest it should awaken feelings in their young minds that might diminish their respect or gratitude for him. — He had heard that with the humane and generous that debt of nature cancelled every injury, and he apprehended that the parent would live in their affectionate remembrance, the extravagant man alone be consigned to the grave.

It was from the consideration of his sister's helpless circumstances, that young ROBINSON submitted to act a dissingenuous part, and appear satisfied with what
was

was absolutely repugnant to him; for, notwithstanding his sex enabled him to cast off the yoke and push himself in life, he was sensible she must remain at the mercy of this wrongheaded and unfeeling-hearted mortal; or, in all probability, in order to avoid one evil, plunge herself into many.

MR. CLIFFEN was well acquainted with his friend's dissatisfactions and took every possible method to amuse and entertain him; and, as Mr. ROBINSON'S house was only five miles from college, they made frequent excursions and spent the chief of their leisure time in company with Miss ROBINSON, who was most worthily the object of her brother's tenderest affection.

SHE was young, inexperienced, and credulous. Her gentle unoffending heart never suggested to her either a malicious or revengeful thought. Tender of her neighbor's frailties, and prone to forgive injuries, she little conceived by what opposite motives the generality of the world were actuated.

MR. CLIFFEN was ever promoting this agreeable intercourse; as he imagined his friend could at no time be happier than when listening to his sister's engaging

engaging chat. How natural to judge of others' inclinations by our own!—Miss ROBINSON was indeed the beginning and the end of all his wishes, and, unmindful of the consequences, he sought only the present gratification of beholding and conversing with her.

THE sordid scheming uncle, hackneied in mean artifices and underhand practices, knew too much of life not to impute young CLIFFEN's visits to his niece's account, and, as he thought him worth taking in, most diligently, though covertly, promoted their private interviews.

ELOQUENCE is often the child of love: With Mr. CLIFFEN it was an innate perfection. No wonder then that he pleaded his own cause successfully (nature his best *Brief*) obviated his KITTY's every objection and prevailed upon her to be his at all adventures.

THE morning appointed for their nuptials was unclouded and serene, no lowering sky, no drooping flowers presaged their evil destiny; but the elements, flattering as their hopes, smiled encouragement upon them, only to render the frowns of fortune more terrible.

THE unwelcome news of this injudicious marriage was too soon conveyed to
the

C H A P. III.

Very short, but contains some natural operations of a groveling spirit. — A conversation, tender, pathetic, and all that. With a far fetched scheme of happiness.

MR. CLIFFEN endeavored to support the shock of his father's unexpected severity with becoming fortitude, for, notwithstanding he was well acquainted with the violence of his temper, he had flattered himself that the united tie of nature and affection (when the first gust was over) would have operated no less kind than powerful upon his heart; he nevertheless preserved the appearance of satisfaction if all was not so perfectly at ease within.

His lovely wife, the innocent cause of his deprivation of fortune, mourned in silence. Her unassuming wishes would indeed have been amply gratified with a bare competence, and her husband's love; could she but have persuaded herself that his desires did not bound beyond, but the apprehension of narrow finances sitting heavy upon him blasted her peace.

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A LEGACY of three thousand pounds had been happily left him by a relation, which was now become his whole dependance instead of a good five thousand a year he was born to. A severe calamity to a generous mind, that delighted in diffusing that felicity around it, which a delicate and judicious distribution of the gifts of fortune, infallibly communicates to the modest, uncomplaining, worthy distressed.

MANY unsuccessful attempts having been made to effect a reconciliation with sir CHRISTOPHER, Mr. ROBINSON's aspect became less and less favorable towards his new nephew, and at length his avarice was so predominant that he gave him to understand, in rather unkind terms, that the sooner he accommodated himself with a habitation the better, as he had thoughts of changing his condition, consequently should want more room.

MR. CLIFFEN's too quick sensibility, was deeply wounded by this rough compliment, it indeed threw him into an agony, he was unable to conceal.

His afflicted wife hung over him in tender anguish, and besought him for her sake to recollect himself. Alas! said she,
I find

I find the measure of my sorrow is not yet complete, must I not only be the fatal instrument of your reduction from affluence to penury, but must I destroy your peace and life?

I AM ashamed, returned this affectionate husband, I am ashamed of my weakness; delicate, or more properly proud feelings, but ill suit the poor man. — Time, my love, will abundantly reconcile me to my change of fortune, a change which I regret more on your account than my own. — How did I fondly flatter my self, continued he, pressing her to his bosom, that I should have had the power of exalting your merit to its due eminence. — But even that wish, added he, sighing, was but vanity. — The means of happiness is still within our reach, notwithstanding affluence has forsaken us, and possibly, at some future period of our lives, we may consider even this cruel incident in a different light to what it appears to us. — Then, pausing a few minutes, he resumed, be assured, my KITTY, the highest and meanest conditions are the most vicious as well as most dissatisfactory; the parade of ceremony being no less fatiguing to an ingenuous

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genuous mind, than the severity of labor to a delicate body, and luxury an equal incitement with want to evil inclinations: — We, my worthy girl, are happily exempt from both these extremes. — We will therefore subdue all blameable discontent, and consult how we may best improve our little stock of money and larger stock of affection. — To this end we will not look out of ourselves for happiness; and, in my opinion, should stand a fairer chance for enjoying it, unallayed by mortification, in some peaceful retreat. — What say you, my dear, to pitching our tent in a remote corner of the world; renouncing our name, which would only serve for a memento of what we ought to have been, and trusting to the merit of our own behaviour to procure us acquaintance, and engage us friends?

MRS. CLIFFEN had remained silent, with her eyes fixed upon the floor, until she heard her husband make the agreeable proposition of retiring from the world; she then extended her hand, with heartfelt satisfaction, as a token of her approbation; it appearing to her to

be the most eligible step to wean is mind from unavailing reflections.

No one was acquainted with their chosen scheme, but young ROBINSON, who assisted in the execution of it, and had the pleasure to find it far exceed their best expectation.

He had followed nearly what he called a suitable education upon him for a trader, which amounted to little more than an extensive knowledge of figures. In order, therefore, to clear him from all mercantile pretensions, he sent him to France, under the notion of an empty voyage, to visit his father's friends, who retained him, at the expiration of a couple of years, into his father's hands, and to his father's

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any degree of every valuable accom-
plishment, had the object to improve
himself in the father and friends for a
young man. He was master of a
fencing

C H A P. IV.

A very heavy reading chapter, but contains matters, of high importance to this history.

SIR CHRISTOPHER retained his resentment against his first-born in full vigor (at least in appearance) to the end of his life; but, as he had intended both his other boys for business, he was greatly distressed lest Mr. ARTHUR, the second eldest, should be incapable of becoming the fine gentleman.

He had bestowed merely what he called a suitable education upon him for a trader, which amounted to little more than an extensive knowledge of figures. In order, therefore, to clear him from all mercantile suet, he sent him to *France*, under the tuition of an empty, foppish, self-sufficient fellow; who returned him, at the expiration of a couple of years, into his father's hands, *lick'd* to his heart's desire.—

THE travelled youth, though in reality devoid of every valuable accomplishment, had the address to impose himself upon his father and friends for a youth of parts. He was master of a sneering

sneering kind of wit, — a mean complaisance, and an artful discretion. He could smile, though unconscious of every pleasing sensation; — weep, though untouched by grief or compassion, — and fawn upon the person he despised.

HE was particularr happy in catching people's sentiments and squaring his conversation accordingly. And, by the assistance of a strong memory, was so judicious an observer of time, place and circumstance, as to elude all detection.

THIS subtle young man soon reconciled his father to the loss of Mr. HENRY, and having an innate, and, for his early time of life, extravagant, passion for money, he made choice of a wife that not only gratified, but exceeded his father's fondest ambition.

THE lady had merit, but Mr. ARTHUR did not give himself the trouble of examining it, as she yielded her person and fortune implicitly to her father's disposition, flattering herself she could command her affections at will. It was, however, strongly suspected that she repented her too passive obedience, as her countenance betrayed the infelicity of her heart, notwithstanding her lips were discreetly sealed, — She only lived to give

for CHRISTOPHER a grand-daughter, — and was then consigned to the family vault with very little regret, as her chief apparent virtue, was the being merely inoffensive. —

AT the period of sir CHRISTOPHER's illness, his grand daughter was eighteen, his own daughter five and thirty, — his youngest son a bachelor having accumulated a plentiful fortune by commerce and valuable legacies, had purchased a house in the neighborhood of his father, for his chief residence, where he hourly lamented his brother HENRY's unhappy fate.

MR. HENRY had not been heard of for six and twenty years, consequently Mr. ARTHUR was considered as legally heir to the family title, as sir CHRISTOPHER's reprobation of that unfortunate gentleman (in due form of law) had made him to the family estate.

BUT, to return to the travellers, JOE and his brother no sooner reached CLIFFEN park, than they were informed that sir CHRISTOPHER was speechless, and expected to expire every moment.

NOT a heart in the family but experienced, upon this occasion, the agitations

tions of hope, fear, or generous compassion.

THE domestics (except in the article of renouncing Mr. HENRY) honored and revered their master.

MR. JAMES CLIFFEN loved his father's virtues, piously pitied and concealed his infirmities, and most sincerely wished his recovery.

MISS MARGARET (as Sir CHRISTOPHER's daughter was called, to distinguish her from his grand-daughter) was deeply solicitous concerning her future provision.

MISS CLIFFEN's unfeigned affection for her grand-papa occasioned the reflection of her being about to lose him for ever; to her an heart wounding one.

MR. ARTHUR was not without his apprehensions; but his ambition to make a figure in life, and shake off the restraint of parental authority, caused them to flow from a most unnatural source.

THE merchant, alias Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN, never quitted his father's apartment, from the moment he was seized with his alarming disorder, until he expired.

His tender care and assiduity appeared highly grateful to the dying man; and

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he would frequently press his hand and labor to articulate some commands he seemed to have for him—but in vain; the faculty of speech was denied him; notwithstanding he retained his reason until the latest period of his existence.

WHEN his daughters (as he called both aunt and niece) approached his bed, he was placid and composed, but Mr. ARTHUR's appearance threw him into great agonies. Thus he languished until the fifth day, when, after a few convulsive pangs, he gently departed.

THIS mistaken gentleman, in conformity to his fond desires, for the support of his family consequence, bequeathed his whole estate to his son ARTHUR, except three thousand pounds to miss MARGARET and a similar sum to the merchant; miss CLIFFEN's name was not mentioned in the will, and indeed it would have been extraordinary if it had, as it was made previous to her birth, and was that very identical instrument sir CHRISTOPHER had drawn up in the fullness of his wrath at his son HENRY's march.

MISS MARGARET was highly dissatisfied with the small provision her father had made for her; but, on the merchant's promising

promising she should be no loser at the long run, she thought proper to mitigate her resentment.

It may not be malapropos to observe, that, notwithstanding sir ARTHUR (as he was now called) had been master of sufficient artifice to preserve the utmost decency and decorum, both in his conduct and conversation, that he was by no means averse to the pleasures of life (as its debaucheries are corruptly styled) amongst which his mistress and his bottle held the first place in his estimation.

His views, however, upon his father had occasioned his visits to the lady to be more private and less frequent, than he could otherwise have wished, and laid him under infinite restraint with respect to the gratification of his other darling passion. But now, that the impediment was removed, and he happily found himself at liberty to indulge his natural inclination, his pride or prudence, suggested to him, that it would be unnecessary to have some one about his daughter in the capacity of companion, or gover- nante, to prevent the too clamorous censures of his neighbors for neglecting his home, with so lovely an inhabitant.

HE was far from being attached to his sister, and had but a very mean opinion of either her discretion or understanding, nevertheless, as by her continuance at his house he should avoid the expence he must necessarily have incurred by a stranger's attendance, he determined to give her an invitation, to the no small mortification of miss CLIFFEN, as her aunt's sentiments and her's were not in the least correspondent.

THE truth was, that miss MARGARET was endued with a similar disposition to the baronet's, which, to describe in one word, was most uniformly unamiable.

HER person was thin, prim and tall, much pitted with the small pox, and strikingly defective in her shape; notwithstanding which several imperfections, she was so far in charity with her own sweet figure, as to believe it capable of exciting admiration in the breasts of her male beholders, and envy amongst the female.

SHE affected a cruelty which had no existence in her nature, nor indeed, if it had, was she ever so happy as to have an opportunity of exercising it. But as her lovers were lost ere they could be justly said to be won she was wont to impute
it

it to that disdainful manner with which she treated them.—Poor wretches (as she would frequently say to her maid DOLLY) I am sorry for them—but what would they have one do?—It is not my intention to look severe—but my eyes, DOLLY (giving the girl at the same time a twinkling specimen) were formed to command, not languish.

HER niece, in the bloom of youth and beauty, was diffident of her own merit, and entirely unassuming, she possessed a sprightly, humane and engaging disposition; was gentle in her manners, and delicate in her taste and conversation. Notwithstanding her aunt's behavior was far from claiming it, she ever paid her the utmost deference and respect. She indeed knew not a contrary conduct, as duty and propriety were her governing principles.

SIR ARTHUR, according to the example of his father, allowed them one maid between them, who, happily for miss CLIPPEN, was a well disposed, cheerful young woman, and had long been most sincerely attached to her.

C H A P. V.

Contains a tale of said import—the consequence of JACOB's eloquence—an extraordinary discovery—with a resolution the reader could have but little expected.

THE nurse, who attended sir CHRISTOPHER during his illness, did not fail to communicate to his several domestics, his apparent anxiety to make himself understood, with infinite exaggeration.

VARIOUS conjectures and cabals, according to the different rank and sagacity of those second and third hand gentry, were the consequence of that alarming intelligence.

THE steward shook his head, and was significantly silent.

THE foot-men threw out many unintelligible intimations, whilst the maids, forming into parties, by their terrified countenances, half-whispers, shrugs, &c. &c. denoted their apprehensions.

BUT the ever eloquent JACOB did not confine himself to inuendos, for, the succeeding evening to sir CHRISTOPHER's departure, having, by the mere dint

dint of dexterity, obtained a chearing glass beyond his usual custom, openly harangued his class of dependants (Jor standing at his right hand in mute admiration of his amazing knowledge and elocution) with repeated instances of people's never being at rest, that died in the manner his worship had done until they revealed their heart's desire.

His audience increased as he proceeded to prove, that a visit might too reasonably be expected from their master (God rest his soul) *alibof* they should all see him put into his cold grave with their own eyes. For why, continued he, we all know that the grave can hold only our fleshly part, where as our spirit (that sound like magic drew them all close to one another) can wander about this or any other house, in spite of any one. What are locks and bolts, exclaimed he (exalting his voice) against a *ghostler* or spirit, that can whip you in at a key-hole or the smallest crevice; stand at your bed's feet, without your seeing it, and call you by your name, *alibof* it never *knowd* you afore.

SIR ARTHUR'S bellringing hastily, dispersed the affrighted assembly, the heads and hearts of the female part replete

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with horrible chimeras; inasmuch that they thenceforth started at their own shadows, trembled at the screech owl's voice, and were even discomposed by the harmless cricket's chirp; whilst the more courageous men, though they endeavored to preserve the appearance of bravery, crept about the house with heart felt trepidation.

SIR ARTHUR was entirely ignorant of the weak apprehensions of his family, until an accident brought them to his knowledge, notwithstanding they had uninterruptedly prevailed for the whole succeeding month from sir CHRISTOPHER's interment.

THE antient custom of adorning kitchens with holly and bay-leaves the eve preceding christmas, though sinking into oblivion in the polite metropolis, is religiously observed by rural maids.

UNFORTUNATELY for those two damsels whose immediate province it was to perform that anniversary rite at sir ARTHUR's, the village clock struck twelve before they could accomplish it. — Tremendous hour! — when church-yards yawn and the blue-burning taper denotes the approach of beings supernatural.

BRIDGET

BRIDGET and JORE, whilst the clock yet struck, exchanged a glance of sad dismay. — Then, arm in arm, with palpitating hearts — not daring once to look on this side or that — they traversed the long gloomy lobby that led to their apartment.

WHEN safe arrived, with trembling hands, they soon undressed themselves; — and, in the same instant, both immersed, beneath the covering of their truckle bed — snug and secure.

BUT, ere they had tasted the balm of soft repose — the bed — ah, horrible to tell! — shook under them — a monstrous bulk repeatedly attempted to raise them up — they, half distracted, cried aloud for help — then, leaping up, alarmed the house — sir ARTHUR, ladies — all came forth.

THE poor affrighted creatures told an incoherent tale, of what they had felt, and, falling on their knees, besought sir ARTHUR to send that instant for the parson to ease his worship's mind, for, till he had spoken they were *fairain* sure *be'd* never be at rest.

SIR ARTHUR's brow was immediately contracted by this intimation, and, calling them fools, ordered his steward to

take

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take the stoutest fellows with him, and examine the house, for he was well convinced the living, not the dead, had occasioned all that confusion.

THE steward was an honest, well meaning man; but, as he did not possess the brightest understanding upon earth, his heart misgave him, insomuch that he ventured to disobey his master's positive commands.

SIR ARTHUR was now insensed beyond all measure. — Block-head! — dastard! — cried he, in the most vehement accent, must I then lead the way! dare your cowardly souls follow me! — give me my pistols I'll soon demonstrate these simple creature's folly.

BUT, what pen could do justice to this grand procession? — it indeed baffles all description. — Be it sufficient then to say — They searched the house — and found — under the damsels' bed — a — sturdy hound — the cause of their affright. — But strong impressions are not soon erased. — They feared and doubted still — sir ARTHUR was piqued at the bumkins' incredulity, and, in order to divert their minds from such idle, and with respect to the family disgraceful, ideas, resolved, on returning to his apartment, to make an excursion to *London*.

C H A P.

CHAP. VI.

*Contains new scenes — new sentiments —
new characters — et tout chose de nou-
veaux.*

SIR ARTHUR's resolution was highly agreeable to the ladies, as they had long wished to visit the metropolis, but, as miss MARGARET had been within an ace of making an ugly slip there in the days of her youth, they both despaired of ever meeting with a happy opportunity.

SIR ARTHUR's memory was seldom defective, nor did it fail him upon the present occasion; but, as his sister was barely twenty when she contracted an improper acquaintance, he was inclined to consider it as an error peculiar to her age, and that sixteen years' experience, and the well known pride of the CLIFFEN family (though, by the way, it was chiefly centered in himself) would secure her from every such step for the future, or, let her conduct, at worst, be ever so blameable, he had that confidence in his daughter's principles, as to believe she would preserve herself clear of every infection, and pay an implicit obedience to all

all his injunctions ; a confidence which the whole tenor of her irreproachable behavior had established, and justified.

THE little affair miss MARGARET had been engaged in, promised to have turned out very prettily ; had not sir CHRISTOPHER, by some fatal means, got an inkling of it (and, from a hasty and erroneous judgment, deeming the person unworthy of her) hurried her into the country, never more to return.

SHE had not the least suspicion of his cruel design, but imagined, when she found the carriage was ascending *Highbury-bill*, that they were taking an airing in the city taste, merely for the pleasure of descending again. But she did not long enjoy that happy delusion, for, as they were whirling briskly through the town, sir CHRISTOPHER, imagining he had nothing farther to fear, began to give vent to his great resentment, which, for many preceding hours, had been unspeakably troublesome to him.

IN the midst of his reviling, he charged her with the base, the groveling intention, of uniting herself to a little dirty dancing master's apprentice ; no less contemptible in his figure, than in his connections and understanding, made many
coarse

coarse observations upon her taste, and proceedings, and assured her, that, though he should not bear her the same affection as usual, he would spare no pains to prevent her disgracing her family. That she had seen her last of *London*, nor should she be trusted to her own conduct, even in the country; for he would have spies upon her, wheresoever she went; nor could she complain of such treatment, as her own folly and meanness had occasioned it.

MISS MARGARET was too well acquainted with her father's disposition, to attempt her own justification. However mortifying, severe, or groundless the reproaches he made her; she could have born them all with fortitude, had he not thrown out that bitter declaration of her never again returning to the place she had been trepanned from.

HAPPY was it for sir CHRISTOPHER, that he had proceeded with so much caution; for, rather than have forgone the satisfactions she enjoyed, she would have purchased them at the expence of her reputation and liberty.

HER brother ARTHUR exulted in her humiliation and sufferings, as he forelaw he should reap no inconsiderate advantage from them, by having her fortune

left in his power, or perhaps, seeing her wholly dependent upon himself for a provision, and he was indifferent which of the two, his father might be provoked to fix on : nor could he frequently forbear giving her some sharp cuts, out of the malignity of his heart, upon the pretty hand she had made of it.

Miss was wont to retort upon him with great acrimony, and would insinuate, that there were people whose conduct could as ill bear a scrutiny as her's, but, happily for for them, they possessed a larger share of art. As to the swain, she strenuously insisted upon it, that he was born and bred a gentleman, although she must acknowledge fortune had not been altogether so favorable to him as he deserved; all which did but expose her to her brother's further ridicule and contempt.

MR. JAMES CLIFFEN was commissioned to hire a house for his brother and family, at the polite end of the town. He had quitted *Warwickshire* a few days after his father's funeral, on pretence of urgent business; though, in reality, to avoid coming to an open rupture with his brother, whose proceedings he had long observed with the highest concern and disapprobation. NOTWITH-

NOTWITHSTANDING this gentleman was not perfectly free from some singularities, he might justly be deemed an amiable character.

He was indeed warm in his attachments, and warm in his resentments; but humanity and benevolence were his most prevailing passions.

GRATITUDE was also a lively principle with him, consequently he was incapable of forgetting a brother to whose uncommon tenderness and generosity he had been indebted for all the happy periods of his infant state.

NEVER did injunction cost a heart more severe pangs than the one he received from his father, of not corresponding with, or seeing, Mr. HENRY, nor would he have had sufficient resolution to adhere to it, however fatal the consequence, had not that gentleman most considerately withdrawn himself forever from his knowledge, declaring, in a farewell letter he sent him, immediately before his journey, that he was determined never to involve any dear relation in his misfortunes, but would bear him the same affection in his retreat, as in those happier days when he

was

was not confined to the bare profession of kindness.

MR. JAMES would continually entertain his niece, in every private interview, with repeated instances of her uncle HENRY's most benign disposition, and conclude with telling her, that, but for her conversation, and the conversation of one family, he was acquainted with in *London*, his life would be a burthen to him; the loss he had sustained in being deprived of such a friend and relation having imbittered all his enjoyments.

MISS CLIFFEN, as has been already mentioned, was mistress of many amiable qualities, both personal and mental, but her best recommendation with her uncle was a resemblance he fancied she bore of his deceased brother (for such he ever considered him) and the tears, that would involuntarily steal down her lovely cheeks, when he was most pathetic upon his favourite subject, so irresistibly attacked him, that he would resolve to devote his whole life and fortune to the promotion of her happiness and her's alone, except, as a gentle suggestion would inform him, he could prevail upon one particular

particular lady to be propitious to his humble wishes.

He was, by no means, delighted with the news of his brother's intended journey; as it was impossible with them to meet, without bickering and wandering. He had, however, no right to oppose his inclinations, in points that did not immediately relate to himself; therefore, he so far complied with his request, as to apply to a person of condition, who was under some obligations to him to permit her house-keeper to provide them a suitable habitation.

THIS lady was a viscount's widow who had great property abroad at her husband's decease, which she would never have recovered, but through the indefatigable industry of Mr. JAMES CLIFFENT, to the prejudice of her own and her daughter's fortune; consequently, he was ever a welcome guest with them both, and his requests considered as marks of friendship.

THE merchant's attachment to lady HAMPTON was of a peculiar nature, her merit as a wife and mother, her person and fine understanding, had made a tender impression upon his heart: but his passion was hopeless, for her ladyship had,

had, to his knowledge, declared she should think herself unworthily treated by any future proposals for changing her condition, however advantageous; as she had attained an inexcusable period for such a step (though only forty one) her child supplying to her every character she could have connection with.

THIS declaration had the desired effect in suppressing the merchant's growing hopes; for his partiality and intentions had not escaped lady HAMPTON's penetration; and, as she wished to retain his friendship, she took that method to prevent her losing him in the lover.

MR. CLIFFON waited on her ladyship the morning after his receiving his brother's letter, and, having communicated the contents, the house-keeper was (after receiving due instructions) dispatched in quest of a habitation.

SHE had been but a few minutes dismissed, before their company was augmented by the dropping in of a young officer, who was nephew to lady HAMPTON and a most extraordinary favorite of Mr. CLIFFEN's.

THE merchant, delighted at the encounter, as he had not seen the MAJOR since his return from a foreign expedition, congratulated

congratulated him, with the most friendly warmth, upon his happy escape from such dangerous circumstances, as the nature of his command must have exposed him to.

WHEN they resumed their seats, Mr. CLIFFEN enquired, with an honest curiosity, into the particulars of the attack, it was a desperate one, indeed, continued he, and I trembled for your safety, both upon your own and your family's account.

WHEN the MAJOR had, with unwearied complacence, answered all his interrogatories, he began to inveigh against our polite, ambitious, and (as he, in the resentment of his heart, styled them) treacherous neighbors, for occasioning so many brave lives to be lost in repelling their daring encroachments. When he had run himself almost out of breath in invectives that did honor to his own goodness of heart, however ill applied, his heat began to abate, when, softening his accent, he naturally enough sunk into himself and his own concerns.

MAJOR, said he, smoothing every face of displeasure from his brow, I am endeavoring, by lady HAMPTON's means, to procure a house in town for the accommodation

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modation of my brother's family within your neighborhood, I hope you will be friendly and introduce your cousin to the acquaintance, at least, of my niece and sister, they are both single, added che, smiling, and you should have my consent to go a step further.

WHAT say you, BROMLEY, interrogated lady HAMPTON, are you disposed to change your condition; miss CLIFFEN is a young, handsome, and, as I have been informed, sensible lady, with a fine fortune. I don't see where you could make a better choice.

UNLESS, replied the merchant (casting a look at miss HAMPTON) he should have a desire to become a nearer relation to your ladyship.

FANNY and BROMLEY's dispositions, returned lady HAMPTON, are, by no means, calculated for such an union, nor, I assure you, Mr. CLIFFEN, they should have had my consent; not that I would be understood, continued her ladyship, pleasantly, to intend a compliment either to the one or the other, for the objection I should make is to the parity, not disparity, of their humours.

SURELY, my good aunt, said the MAJOR, you are introducing a new system,
can

can disagreement arise from similitude?

In this particular, BROMLEY, returned dady HAMPTON, I am convinced it may; however seeming the paradox. — You have both, from your infancy, affected a love of repartee, and I have often observed, that, rather than not return the ball, you have had recourse to a little acrimony; which, though a pretty seasoning in common conversation, is a dangerous ingredient in the matrimonial; and, too frequently, destroys the more amiable emulation of excelling only in acts of kindness and benevolence.

But it is rather unkind, my dear madam, said the Major, drolling, to declare against us, without first making yourself acquainted with our sentiments. What a terrible wound would you have given my poor tender heart, if it had received a due impression of miss BANNY's charms, but, as we have thrown, or in all probability may throw away, our inclinations, on less worthy objects, your ladyship's declaration has no terrors for me. Ah, my cousin, added he smartly, I hope I have not made an unseasonable

discovery, your complexion seems considerably heightened.

My daughter seldom wants an assistant, BROMLEY, said lady HAMPTON, in returning the compliments you are pleased to bestow upon her; but, on this occasion, I cannot forbear giving you my sentiments; I may be partial, but such is my confidence in my girl's principles and understanding, that, I flatter myself, she will never make a choice that deserves a blush.

Your ladyship has the address, returned the MAJOR, to wheedle us into the very conduct you wish we should observe. But I know —

Would you insinuate, said her ladyship, hastily interrupting him, that a young woman ought to be ashamed of appearing susceptible of real merit; FANNY has passed the girlish period (the young lady had just entered her one and twentieth year) and has her mother's example for her sanction, who did not blush to acknowledge her sensibility of her lover's merit (the merchant sighed profoundly) or bestow her hand publicly upon him, the merchant coughed, hemmed, and was, apparently affected.

A TRUCE

A TRUCE, a truce, good madam, said the MAJOR humorously. — I am too well acquainted with the depth of my own capacity to engage with you on any subject; but, if Mr. CLIFFEN will give me leave to set him down, we will discuss this point, unawed by your superior judgment.

MR. CLIFFEN accepting the MAJOR's offer, they took their leave immediately, the morning being pretty far advanced.

I WISH, sir, said the MAJOR, as the chariot drove from the door, you would favor me with your company to dinner to day, as I shall have a couple of young friends with me, whom I should take a particular pleasure in introducing to your acquaintance: I am well convinced their merit would engage your highest approbation.

How widely different, replied Mr. CLIFFEN, is your taste and inclinations to the generallity of young fellows; the company of one of my time of life, unless a notorious debauchee, would be considered by them as a restraint upon their mirth; but with you —

EVERY worthy heart is acceptable, replied the MAJOR, with some warmth, of whatever age or denomination its

possessor; but we are getting out of the route to *Grosvenor Square*, therefore, if you will permit me (stooping to reach the check cord) I will order my servants to drive directly home.

It is impossible for me, my good friend, said Mr. CLIFFEN, preventing the MAJOR's intentions, to accept your invitation at this juncture. I have had an ugly cough upon me for some time, and am advised by my physicians to try the *Bristol* waters; I propose leaving town in a few days and have some affairs I must settle before my departure, which will require pretty close application. You know how I dislike, continued he, the ceremony of bidding adieu; it so much resembles the melancholy farewell of mortality that I would wish to experience it only upon that occasion. — I always make my last visit previous to my leaving town at your aunt's. — This time it has answered many purposes. — For I had not heard of your arrival, and was most agreeably surprised when you dropped in upon us. — I indeed regret that we can enjoy so little of each other's company at present; but, as I propose continuing only a month or six weeks, at *Bristol*, I do flatter myself

self I shall see you again before you embark on any future expedition. — You shall receive the earliest notice of my return; when I shall expect you will oblige me, by an unceremonious introduction of your friends. — You have prepared me to think highly of them, as I know you incapable of recommending those you do not approve, and of approving without singular merit.

THE expeditious carriage soon stopped at MR. CLIFFEN'S door; when, shaking hands, with heart-felt affection, not mechanically, according to the custom of the present age, they parted with mutual reluctance.

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D 3 CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

Contains an opening to the history of MAJOR BROMLEY—with incidents and conversations the Author flatters himself will amuse if not instruct.

THE MAJOR had no sooner parted from Mr. CLIFFEN, than he reflected that he had it in his power to oblige lady HAMPTON, in a most singular degree, by complimenting sir ARTHUR with the use of the house (as that lady gladly embraced every opportunity of evincing her gratitude for the obligations she was under to the merchant) and, should it be necessary for him to quit it for their accommodation, previous to his receiving the expected orders for a second embarkation, he could have a comfortable apartment in the same habitation with his young friend; he, therefore, rung the bell in a few minutes after his arrival at home, and ordered his prime servant to sally forth, at an early hour in the morning, to communicate his friendly intention.

Mr. DIXON, by whom his master's orders were ever obeyed with the utmost punctuality

punctuality, arose with the sun, and had gained the right hand turning into *Brook-street*, at the south corner of *Grosvenor-square* when he was unluckily met by a valet of a very different species to himself, namely, foppish, insolent, and vain.

DIXON was far from being pleased at the rencounter, and endeavored to shun him, but the affected Mr. SPRUCE prevented his design, by lisping a good-morrow.

DIXON returned his salute with distance and reserve, upon which the incensed SPRUCE seized him by the button of his coat, and, with a significant shrug, told him he was cursed polite, but his behavior made him recollect the old proverb—Like master like man.

DIXON burnt with resentment: as, reflecting upon his master was touching him in the most tender part. — When SPRUCE added, but I have this consolation that I bear a tickle tail about me that will whip him into better manners.

MR. SPRUCE, replied the humble DIXON (with a rebukive aspect) I must intreat you to wave all unnecessary flourishes; I am a plain spoken man, consequently have a plain comprehension. — This I must, however, tell you, that I

have too much respect for my master to suffer him to be unworthily mentioned even by your superiors; therefore, if you have occasion to speak of him, do it in such terms as his rank and fortune intitles him to.

WHY so warm? why so warm? Mr. Dixon, interrogated the fop with much trepidation. — I intended no offence; — it is my master's orders that I should wait upon your's with a small modicum of his sentiments. I was only —

A LITTLE too free with your tongue, said Dixon, interrupting him; but I shall take it from whence it comes, and return with you in order to convey your master's note to my master.

SPRUCE remained sullenly silent, DIXON apprehensively so, until they reached the house of MAJOR BROMLEY.

It was that gentleman's custom, contrary to the polite examples of his neighbors, to spend a long morning in his study, for which laudable purpose he generally arose at seven o'clock in the winter season, and six in the summer.

NOTWITHSTANDING his religion, or particular tenets, might run counter to that writer's whose masterly language and noble sentiments in every other respect were

were truly admirable, his approbation was not narrowly withheld, nor his honor for the heart that dictated them in the smallest degree diminished, for he considered himself (with Mr. ADDISON) as no more intitled to quarrel with a man for not being of the same opinion with himself, than for not having the same colored hair; except when an oppressive or uncharitable spirit was conspicuous.

DIXON, having given due notice, entered his master's rational retirement, with a tremor he could not account for; and, stroking back his hair, as he declined his head, by way of bow, stammered out, A servant from captain FARRELL desires to speak with your honor.

WHAT, DIXON, said the MAJOR, with a look of benevolence, is his embassy of such importance as not to be communicated to thee. — Well, shew him up.

So, Mr. SPRUCE, said the MAJOR, as DIXON ushered him into the apartment, your master has dispatched you with an early message.

SPRUCE bowed; and, with the awkward grace of clumsy imitation, presented the note, his bright master had most elaborately penned.

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MAJOR BROMLEY perused it with a steady countenance; then returned his compliments to the captain, — and he should find him a man of honor.

AWAY tript SPRUCE.

DIXON, having dispatched this unwelcome messenger, returned to dress his master. Traces of an affectionate anxiety were apparent in every feature. — He mistook the orders he received. — Slipped the MAJOR's arm into his coat, the hind part before. — Fetched his hat instead of sword. — And, in short, was overwhelmed by an unconquerable confusion.

THE humane MAJOR penetrated the cause of his honest servant's disorder, and, by an easy, cheerful behavior, endeavored to dispel it.

I SHALL return to dinner, DIXON!

Oh sir.

— I AM engaged this evening at lady HAMPTON'S.

— GOD preserve your honor.

You will prepare my things to dress.

— WHAT will become of poor DIXON?

MAJOR BROMLEY, who would, fearless, have encountered the most formidable French fleet, was affected, — his resolution

resolution shaken, his whole purpose disconcerted. — I have altered my mind, DIXON; said he, with visible emotion, and will not go out till after dinner. Help me to a pen and ink.

THE poor fellow was now unable to contain himself. — Joy was too powerful for him. — He, therefore, burst out into a deep bellow, nor were his audible sobs disgraceful to the ear of his worthy master.

FAITHFUL creature! — Inestimable token of undissembled kindness! said the MAJOR, in a low voice. — Then, raising it, you must explain your behavior, DIXON.

I BEG your honor's pardon, replied DIXON, hesitating. — A challenge. — I should have lost my master. — He is safe. — And I am happy. He could proceed no farther: the ink he was bearing to the MAJOR was augmented by the falling of a big tear; and, in compassion to the honest weakness of his soul, his considerate master gave him time to recover himself by writing the following letter:

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TO CAPTAIN FARRELL.

Sir,
Your servant has this morning delivered a most extraordinary billet into my hands, upon a reperusal of which and one half hour's reflection I am convinced I have been premature in my determination. A man of true honor will be as incapable of an unworthy action, in Grosvenor-square as Hyde-park. — If you will therefore come to my house accompanied by whatsoever friend you chuse should be witness of our conversation, between the hours of eleven and one, you shall receive all due satisfaction from, sir,

Your's, &c.

FRANCIS BROMLEY.

You must clear up your countenance, DIXON, said the Major, and be the bearer of these few lines to captain FARRELL.

Yes, sir, said DIXON, again trembling, with apprehension. — I am ready, sir. — I hope —

You have every thing to hope, said the Major, but, I promise you, you have nothing to fear, upon my account; empty sounds shall not mislead me. Nor will I hazard my immortal part, to humor the caprice of any coxcomb.

DIXON

Dixon no sooner quitted his master's apartment, than, opening a bureau, he took out a miniature picture, gazed upon it with ineffable delight; kissed the lovely image, vowing to live to the latest period heaven would be pleased to permit — for that dear object's sake.

CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

Contains a continuation of the MAJOR's history. — The behavior of a naval commander in a trying exigence — with some circumstances of a lady's life, though romantic to the last degree in appearance, strictly conformable with truth.

DIXON, on his arrival at captain FARRELL's, found the whole house in confusion. Not a menial servant but was apprised of his master's gallant intention, and anxious for the event, not from a principle of kindness but curiosity.

MR. SPRUCE bore the unexpected alteration of the MAJOR's mind, to his enraptured master.

COWARDLY puppy! exclaimed the captain (his heart, in the same instant, bounding with joy that his appointment was declined) what a mean subterfuge! — But I will post him at WILL's — WHITE's, and GEORGE's. — SPRUCE, you remember how this arm (extending it in heroic triumph) chastised that little presuming rascal JACK EATON. — Then again that *Portsmouth* affair. — Gad so! but it did me infinite honor.

SPRUCE

SPRUCE grinned applause. — He was of a civil pliant nature, and possessed every accomplishment requisite in a coxcomb's valet.

SPRUCE, said the noble captain, reclining back in his chair, with the most becoming negligence, I will not return a written answer. — It would be too great condescension. — Therefore, after a short pause (collecting much contempt upon his brow) tell his slovenly fellow I shall consider of his master's proposal — and perhaps comply with it.

SPRUCE, whose heels were as light as a fairy queen's, skimmed the grand staircase with amazing agility. — And, being blest with an excellent capacity for retaining — trifles, — repeated his master's significant answer verbatim.

DIXON, out of heart's ease and contempt, sneered most meaningly upon his airy brother — and departed with very little ceremony.

CAPTAIN FARRELL communicated the particulars of the challenge, he had sent the MAJOR, (though not the nature of the provocation) in confidence to the whole circle of his intimates; — who laughed in their sleeves at the vain bragadocio. But, as it was very convenient for them to fleece him of some of the
great

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great prize money, he, as an unworthy member of a brave fleet, had acquired; they industriously concealed their real sentiments.

At the appointed hour this naval Bonadil threw himself carelessly into his elegant *wis a wis*, attended by his quondam first lieutenant, a man most aptly calculated to obtain and enjoy the confidence and approbation of such a captain. *Broth. ed. I was not viewed and I was*

Notwithstanding Dixon had fortified himself with innumerable, recollected instances of his master's calmness, understanding, and true courage; and of captain Farrell's folly and timidity (and, above all, from the consideration of his master's safety) having suppressed every insolent and irritating part of the captain's message he was alarmed when the rap of consequence denoted their arrival. — Nor was he in the least disposed to conduct them into an elegant apartment where that gentleman was prepared to receive them, could a breach of his master's positive commands ever have hoped for pardon.

The Major had Sir Richard Steel's *hero* in his hand at their entrance, which *be*
was very convenient
for them to place him of some of the
great

he immediately laid down, and saluted them with great politeness.

CAPTAIN FARRELL and his friend, alias *creature*, were no less unprepared for such genteel treatment, than incapable of returning it.

PLEASE to be seated, gentlemen, said the MAJOR, pointing to a settee. — They implicitly complied and a minute's silence ensued.

MR. PORTLAND, said the MAJOR, addressing the lieutenant; as captain FARRELL has been pleased to make choice of you to be present at the clearing up of some little accounts between us, I hope you will not judge it unreasonable if I request the liberty of calling in a friend of mine.

RIGHT! incontestibly right! returned the lieutenant.

THE bell was rang. — DIXON attended and was ordered to step to captain HENRY CROSBY's lodgings, and beg him to favor his master with his company.

THE triumvirate again relapsed into a profound taciturnity. — The MAJOR's soul disdaining to hold converse with such worthless beings, until the lieutenant recollected that the weather was greatly brightened, — the wind tacked to

nor

nor by nor, and he fancied it would turn out a fine day.

DIXON threw open the door. — Captain CROSBY.

PARDON me, HENRY, said the MAJOR (advancing to shake hands with his friend) that I have troubled you to give these gentlemen the meeting; but, as you are well acquainted with the incident that gave rise to this extraordinary interview, no person was so proper as yourself to be witness of its termination. I have this morning, continued he, as they resumed their seats, received a challenge from captain FARRELL. — You seem surprised sir; I do assure you I was no less so than yourself; and, what will increase your astonishment, I was very near paying a fatal compliment to the contents. — But reflection has otherwise determined me; yet, as my pride will not permit me to sit down satisfied, with even the false imputation of cowardice, I will lay before your cool and candid judgment (in conjunction with Mr. PORTLAND'S) the particular foundation of the captain's wrath; together with my reasons for declining giving him that satisfaction he this morning so peremptorily required.

Mr.

MR. PORTLAND and yourself (looking alternately upon them) are no strangers to my station and rank in the garrison of ***** at the breaking out of the present war. So soon as a siege was apprehended, our engineer, Mr. PARNELL, insisted upon his amiable daughter's returning to *England*. Unwilling to expose her, his most valuable treasure, to the hazard of falling into the enemy's hands.

THE young lady, though with infinite reluctance, in compliance with her father and mother's tender solicitude for her safety, embarked, the first opportunity, on board a merchant-man bound for her native country, under the convoy of captain FARRELL. — The captain had for some months professed himself Miss PARNELL's admirer; and had not been discouraged by her friends, nor absolutely rejected by herself.

THEY had not got many leagues off the harbor before they perceived a pirate of *Sallee* lurking at a distance; who crowded sail and bore down full upon them.

THE trader was heavy laden; and, apparently, incapable of getting clear of her; under which unhappy circumstances

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ces she was deserted by her convoy, and fell into the enemy's hands.

SIR, sir! exclaimed the captain, his eyes flaming with resentment, we were separated by a hard gale.

CAPTAIN FARRELL, returned the MAJOR, with polite firmness, no interruption; you shall be at liberty to controvert whatsoever you please, when I have finished my relation.

ONE of the merchant's men, resumed the MAJOR (his looks having penetrated his opponent's timid soul) disdaining flattery, resolved to perish or escape. — He therefore plunged into the sea; and having swam until his strength and spirits were near exhausted, was fortunately taken up by a fishing vessel and brought safe on shore. — From him I received the particulars I have now mentioned.

In the first transports of my grief and rage, I gave a loose to the dictates of my heart, I called captain FARRELL (for I am above disguise or palliation, barbarian, coward, nay, sir, why start?) villain.

THE captain, at this juncture, was in truth an object of compassion; if a speaking confusion of aspect could excite so noble a sentiment.

I ACKNOW-

I ACKNOWLEDGE, gentlemen, continued MAJOR BROMLEY (his accent greatly softened) that I had long secretly admired the lovely girl; for, to behold and converse with her without admiring, required absolute insensibility.

THE deep affliction of her parents and the reflection of the evils she must inevitably be exposed to, distracted me with horror. I flew to our governor and besought him to permit me to take an eighty gun ship, then in the harbor, and endeavor to recover so valuable a prize.

HIS affection for the amiable sufferer, though of a different nature to mine, was lively and heart-felt — I not only comply with, said he, but applaud your request. It is the enterprize of humanity — may Heaven be propitious to it!

I INSTANTLY departed; came within due distance of the port the seventh evening, and soon disembarked at a convenient place, by the assistance of our boat; applied to an effendi of eminence; — deposited some baubles in his hands to be judiciously distributed at the seraglio; — and, so powerful was the influence of the shining trifles, that they obtained a passage for a note of intelligence, to miss PARNEL, — that an English ship was then
off

off the harbor, on board of which she would find a friend, who had undertaken the voyage from the garrison of *****, on purpose to deliver her—and to expect to hear from him again at midnight.

INTERESTED, as I have acknowledged my heart was, in the success of this expedition, you will easily believe, gentlemen, that I experienced but few tranquil moments, until the critical hour arrived; when, beyond my best expectation, the effendi generously put me in possession of the lovely captive. — But, ah! how changed from what she was! — A death-like paleness had superceded the bloom of youth and health.

I TREMBLED with new apprehensions. What brutal treatment might not the dear creature have received! — But this was neither a time nor place for inquiry. — I conveyed her, therefore, safe on board; and, the wind proving favorable, was, by day break, out of sight of the hateful port.

I FEAR, gentlemen, said the MAJOR, casting a look of complacence upon his friend and Mr. PORTLAND, I trespass greatly upon your patience; but I must beg you will so far indulge me, as to permit me to relate the few remaining particulars

culars of this most extraordinary adventure; not from any ostentation on my part, or with the most distant view of depreciating captain FARRELL, but merely in order to enable you to form a right judgment of the provocation he complains of.

THE gentlemen, bowing, in acquiescence, the MAJOR proceeded.

MISS PARNELL's affliction and despair had nearly affected her charming intellects. And she continued, for the first four days of our passage, in a most alarming insensibility; without ever once mentioning her wretched parents, or consenting, but with great difficulty, to receive the necessary supports of life. I watched over her with an anxiety I am incapable of describing — but had the unspeakable satisfaction, on the fifth day to perceive some dawnings of returning reason. I avoided every question that might lead her to look back. — Her mind became hourly more and more serene, and her spirits and understanding as gradually improved. — The eighth day we reached the happy garrison.

I ORDERED that no guns should be fired; to prevent our arrival's transpiring until I should have the felicity of presenting

ing my amiable recovered prize, to her disconsolate drooping friends.

My little stratagem succeeded to my wish; and I was admitted into Mr. PARNELL's parlor, with his daughter in my hand, at a period when he least expected ever to behold her more. — Our general was then with them, administering the soft cordial of friendship to their half broken hearts.

THEY thanked; they extolled; they perfectly deified the humble instrument of their returning happiness. — But my reward did not consist in professions. — I had delivered the worthiest of her sex, from the most deplorable state of abject slavery, and diffused around me that felicity a humane disposition must ever delight to communicate.

CAPTAIN FARRELL's valor, humanity and love, were arraigned and irrevocably condemned by our little happy assembly.

(CAPTAIN CROSBY could not refrain from stealing some side glances at the mangled commander.)

MANY severe reflections were thrown out, continued the MAJOR. — The young lady disclaimed all further connexion with him — and I, gentlemen, I acknowledge it, joined my approving voice.

A SERVANT,

A SERVANT, then in the engineer's family, has since exchanged that worthy master for captain FARRELL; to him he is indebted for a repetition of that evening's conversation. — Me and only me of the many that were present has that gentleman thought proper to challenge. — I am not to be intimidated by a paultry scrawl (taking it at the same time out of his pocket with a contemptuous composure) if I am to risk so great a stake as my existence, it shall not be on so mean an occasion as a creeping fellow's report. For, I now personally inform captain FARRELL, that so far from repenting the reflections I that evening threw out, that I here repeat, they were the sentiments of deliberation and rational contempt. I will only detain your attention to the contents of that billet that incited me to trouble my friend's ear with a repetition, of what he has frequently heard me mention as the most valuable action of my life.

TO MAJOR BROMLEY.

Sir

As I am creditably informed you have taken unwarrantable liberties with my name and character, I think proper to acquaint you that a meeting in Hyde-park this

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present

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*present instant can alone satisfy the injured
honor of,*

Sir, your humble servant,

*P. S. Eight o'clock,
pistols and swords
no seconds.*

JOHN FARRELL.

C H A P.

CHAP. IX

Contains a scene in which captain FARRELL unexpectedly shines. — Some few moral strokes worthy attention. — Concluding with an admirable simile.

CAPTAIN CROSBY, with the engaging smile of true good-nature and benevolence, extending his right hand, begged MAJOR BROMLEY would favor him with a sight of captain FARRELL's extraordinary invitation; then, turning to that gentleman, humorously asked him what he had to offer, in objection to judgment's being passed against him.

BUT, though the captain's brain was composed of the most combustible materials imaginable, he possessed a heart as frigid as the banks of *Greenland*. He, therefore, replied, with much hesitation and irresolution, you seem disposed to divert yourself, captain CROSBY; but, if I may be allowed to declare my sentiments, I look upon you as disqualified by your known partiality for the MAJOR, to be a judge in this matter.

E 2

CAPTAIN

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CAPTAIN CROSBY, whose condescension was, by no means, inferior to his other merits, finding the commander paused, replied, with much vivacity; then, sir, we will appoint Mr. PORTLAND sole arbitrator. What say you, MAJOR, are you willing to abide by this determination?

THE MAJOR, giving an assenting nod, the eyes of expectance were immediately turned upon the confounded lieutenant.

NOTWITHSTANDING that gentleman was master of those fine natural talents that constitute—the pimp, the sycophant, and the rascal, he was far from being equal to the compliment now paid him.—He, therefore, declared with a mean vacuity of aspect, that he was incompetent to decide a dispute of such importance.

CAPTAIN FARRELL's impatient head, for once, out running his heavy heart; he complained of delays, and muttered some indiscreet reflections upon the MAJOR's proceedings, depending upon his well-known forbearing disposition for the security of his bones, and promising himself the most voluptuous feast of braggadocio bravery at his return.

BUT,

BUT, the MAJOR's resentment rising many degrees higher than the captain's expectations, he found himself suddenly seized by the nose; his feet, at the same time (by an involuntary kind of motion) bearing his disgraced body from one end of the spacious apartment to the other.

So soon as he felt himself at liberty he shook his ears with great deliberation; when the MAJOR, presenting him a sword, told him he was then ready to give him every satisfaction he could desire.

CAPTAIN FARRELL held the defensive weapon for some moments vibrating in his trembling hand in unspeakable distress. When, retreating a few paces back, a happy recollection struck him; he threw the sword upon a settee and owned he disdained engaging at that juncture with a man, who had used him so unworthily, but that he should find a time to convince the world he knew how to retort an indignity, without throwing away his life by so unequal an encounter; his heat giving his adversary too great advantage. So saying, he rather sneaked, than walked out of the room, with an enflamed countenance that things had proceeded

proceeded the length they had done, and an exulting heart, that they had proceeded no farther. His faithful attendant following.

It is with concern, said captain CROSBY (seating himself by the fire so soon as the gentlemen were withdrawn) that I behold the race of humanity exposing themselves without let or molestation. Why have we not houses to conceal the follies of mankind, as well as to receive the unfortunate lunatic? The coxcomb, the bully, and the coward, are no less pests of society, than that being whom deprivation of reason hurries into every rash and fatal enterprise. The one is an involuntary terror to his species the other an industrious disgrace; and, I do think, some method ought to be taken to stop, the at present promoted, contagion from that false encouragement, our toleration.

BELIEVE me, HENRY, returned the MAJOR my notions of true courage run counter to the commonly received opinion of the world. To defend our property, our king, our country or our lives, is a natural and commendable exertion of that instinctive principle, but, to encounter

encounter a villain merely for having spoke him what he is, and expose ones self to fate, by the hand we despise, is an impeachment of our understanding, discretion, and morality.

BUT, whilst these gentlemen, from concious merit, enjoyed a satisfactory *tête à tête*, the mortified captain and his servile companion were under very different circumstances.

THE commander's heart was stung by disagreeable remembrances, as the gnomon of his countenance was twinged, by palpable disgrace. The lieutenant, borne down by the contemptible apprehension, lest his very great friend and patron should conceive an unconquerable aversion to him from the insignificant part he had sustained in the drama, was a miserable half-hanged spectacle. At length, the captain discharged a volley of execrations against all who had beheld him that day. Not even excepting his wonted favorite; who, notwithstanding he felt the mighty strokes of his resentment, had not the temerity to attempt exculpating himself.

BUT, as a rapid current, whose source is derived from the falling showers—

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when unsupplied, naturally subsides —
so, the captain's wrath being unirritated
and unenflamed by provoking replies,
died away, like the evening breeze.

CHAP.

C H A P. X.

Contains a fray of a very different nature to the preceding one. — Some natural effects of a valuable attachment — with a kind of a short, but pithy dialogue.

BUT, notwithstanding things took so favorable a turn in the upper regions, commotion and wild uproar ragged below.

DIXON, eager to learn the result of the extraordinary interview between his master and captain FARRELL, as he perceived, on passing that gentleman's door, in his return from transacting some business, that his carriage was putting up, injudiciously dropt in upon Mr. SPRUCE, as if by accident.

THE captain had been at home a sufficient time for his valet to be informed he had resigned all thoughts of fighting. A resolution his former behavior, upon many occasions, had given no small grounds to be expected from him.

MR. SPRUCE was not at a loss to guess Dixon's motive for paying him a visit at that juncture; as that honest fellow was not wont to perform such acts of

civility to persons whom he did not approve; and, so simple and impolitic was he, as to make no secret of his approbations or disapprobations; he, therefore, determined to divert himself a little, at the expence of the poor creature's peace.

WELL, DIXON, said the fop, with his usual simpering grace, how come I to be so unexpectedly honored with your good company?—You are sensible it is a favor, though frequently solicited, I could seldom obtain in the garrison of *****.—Must I then place it to friendship, curiosity, or have you been dispatched, as an emissary, by your artful master (but, perceiving he had provoked his ire, he threw in) or, perhaps, his wound is deemed mortal, and——

DIXON's resentment was now absorbed by the more noble passions, of tender affliction and apprehension.—But, observing a satisfied sneer upon SPRUCE's countenance he seized him without farther ceremony by the collar, and declared he would shake him to pieces, if he did not immediately tell him all he knew with respect to his honored master.

SPRUCE, having the advantage of his antagonist, in age and strength;—and, moreover, being upon his own dunghill,
—alias,

—*alias*, amongst his friends; — friends, whom he had procured and retained by the mere dint of liberally distributing — his master's property, — resisted his gripe, with such vigor, as to disengage himself; — and, by a trip, the captain, when offended, had taught him, felled him to the ground; where, without the least honor or mercy, he so bepummeled and belabored the poor unhappy DIXON, that the blood gushed out of his nostrils with infinite rapidity.

THE worthy fellow's pride would not suffer him to acknowledge himself vanquished. — He, therefore, resolved to exert his whole remaining strength, either to bravely conquer or bravely die.

IN the height of their struggle, which had hitherto been as silent as the nature of struggles would admit; — DIXON fortunately stuck his sharp uncut nails into his adversary's upper lip; who, apprehending his features might suffer in an irreparable degree, and, thereby, disqualify him for the title he enjoyed of a very pretty fellow; as also, from experiencing no small pain in the part attacked, he roared out with the utmost vociferation.

THE whole party-colored fry, as well as the damsels of every denomination,

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assembling at the uncommon alarm, DIXON judged it wisest to secure his retreat; which, in their confusion, he effected. As, without any reflection upon his valor, a multitude was no eligible encounter.

WHEN he found himself in the street, his self-cares instantly subsided, and his apprehensions for his master returned upon his mind, with double force. Self-accusations were immediately suggested, by his terror. — Why did he suffer himself to be deceived by the calmness of their conversation into an opinion that all went well? — Why did he not neglect the little affair that prevented his being upon the watch to have secured the bloody villain, and brought him to justice? — But, above all things, from the affectionate motive of procuring his master proper assistance! — what stupidity! — what ingratitude! — he heavily lamented a thousand other neglects, he charged himself with being guilty of, and his distraction occasioned him to misconstrue every incident.

His mind was so entirely engrossed by these afflicting ideas, that his discheveled locks besmeared linen, and dismally bruised countenance, were forgotten by him:

nor

nor did he hear one syllable of the witty sarcasms, that were cast upon him as he passed along.

WHEN he reached his master's house, his fellow servants were alarmed at his condition; for he was the darling of the whole family, through his unexampled good nature and benevolence. — They, therefore, flocked around him, from a motive of affection, rather than curiosity — all exclaiming, in the same instant. — What disaster have you met with, Mr. DIXON? — What ruffian's hands have you fallen into? — Who could be so cruel as to use you ill? — You who never hurt even a fly, and we are sure never gave any one the least provocation in your whole life.

INSTEAD of answering these friendly interrogatories, he demanded, with the wild look of horrible expectance, where his master was? — If captain CROSBY had left him — and if he had had proper help?

BEING told, that the young gentleman had taken his leave, he rushed from amidst his surrounding friends, and ran up-stairs with uncommon expedition.

THE crowd soon dispersed; each shaking his head and saying, — ah, poor soul! some one has told a frightful tale about

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about his honor, — he is ever so, on such occasions.

MAJOR BROMLEY had waited some time, for his valet, to dress; but, how was he astonished when the door opened, and presented him with such a spectacle.

WHAT fray hast thou been engaged in, DIXON, said the MAJOR, viewing him with a half smile; it seems to have been a desperate one by your appearance. — I hope you are not much hurt.

OH, your honor, returned DIXON, in a most sorrowful accent, my mind has suffered more than my body. — I expected to have found your honor in bed.

ME, DIXON, said the MAJOR, regarding him with an eye of grateful pity, how came you to entertain such a notion?

AH, sir, a sneaking fellow, whose insolent behavior provoked me to box with him, gave me the false information. — But, I believe, added he, with a look of self-applause, distinguishable in each horribly disguised feature, I gave him as good as he brought.

THEN, I fancy, said the MAJOR, with difficulty restraining an impulse of laughter, he will not forget you in a hurry. — But, compose your spirits, continued he, now you find *my honor* is safe, and change
your

your dress: for, at present you make a most tremendous appearance.

AH, sir, replied DIXON, you are all goodness. — I am sensible I ought not to have come into your presence in such a nasty pickle. — But I was half distracted.

No apologies, DIXON, said the MAJOR, kindly interrupting him; a worthy intention would sufficiently excuse a much greater impropriety than you have committed. What say you, added he, with a look of tender benevolence, to a golden plaister for your broken pate? — I think you deserve —

I BESEECH you, sir, said DIXON presuming in his zeal to break in upon his master, do not think of paying me for following my own inclinations.

WHEN your inclinations, returned the MAJOR, incite you to meritorious actions, I shall ever think myself bound to confer some mark of my favor upon them, but, observe, DIXON, added he, smiling, I do not commend you for having fought, but for the motive that prompted you to it. — Here, giving him a couple of guineas; let me see you again, when you have resumed your proper self.

DIXON

DIXON retired in all the *Majesty of mud*; his heart over-flowing with love and gratitude.

No sooner had the honest fellow shut the door, than his master fell into an odd train of reflections.

SHALL we esteem a faithful cur, said he, for barking at the approach of a stranger—carefs it, for its noisy tokens of affection—order that its life shall be made easy and happy—yet prove unmindful of the heart-felt attachment of a valuable domestic?

It is the instinctive nature of that animal, to lick the hand that feeds it, but in the human breast are a variety of passions, that impell mankind to submit to their several dominion: what evil inclinations does not self-love excite, and how almost irresistibly prevalent are bad examples? Do I not feel similar tendencies in my own compositions, and shall I not honor the heart that is evidently worthier than the one I am myself possessed of (raised as I am above every temptation it is exposed to) merely because it is lodged in an humbler, less informed, but perhaps more generous bosom.

DIXON, having exchanged his fighting garb for more peaceable habiliments,
and

and, in some measure, recomposed the agitation of his mind, presented himself, with a rather shy aspect, before his master; who beheld him with his wonted complacency, and again inquired if he had escaped unhurt.

AN, sir, replied the honest fellow, shaking his bruised head with infinite meaning, I was most unwarily surprised into this last broil. I think, upon second consideration, continued he, as he placed his master's things to dress, it would have been more manly not to have engaged with such a sneaking coxcomb, as it was admitting him to an equal footing, as it were, which he could never otherwise have attained.—But how many folks upon earth (even amongst persons of your honor's own rank) possess a much less degree of courage, with a third part of your honor's coolness and temper.

MODERATION, DIXON, said the MAJOR, as he seated himself to undergo the necessary operation of *frizzeing* and *toupeeing*, is by no means so difficult an attainment as you seem to imagine; for, if we would but give our reason and reflection fair play, we should be abundantly convinced, how few things in our temporary

temporary state are worth quarrelling about.

It does my very heart good to hear your honor talk, said the delighted Dixon, as he applied the curling irons to his master's fore-top; but, it would be as easy for poor Dixon to argue points like your honor, as to act with the same discretion upon any occasion.

THE dinner bell interrupted their conversation, by informing them, that the utmost dispatch was necessary in the business they were engaged in.

CHAP.

C H A P. XI.

Contains some infantine anecdotes relative to the MAJOR ; capable of amusing only some particular persons ; but, however the reader may find himself disposed, he is advised not to pass them over ; as he will find, in the course of this work, that they were inserted for his information, rather than by way of expletive ; a character or two being introduced in the ensuing chapter which, notwithstanding they seem entirely detached from the work, will be brought into action when he least expects it.

IT has been already proved, the author hopes, to a demonstration, that MAJOR BROMLEY's mind, was no less indebted to nature than art for accomplishments. By art, is only meant a proper cultivation of innate endowments.

BUT his fine genius narrowly escaped a wild luxuriant growth : nor might he ever have filled the valuable character of the warm friend, the cool commander, the generous benefactor, or humane master, had he not received the seasonable polish of education.

HIS

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His father, who, unfortunately, fell in an engagement in his eight and twentieth year, was a man of great bravery and generosity, and second son to the earl of BROMLEY.

ON his decease, an estate of two thousand pounds a year devolved to the little BROMLEY, then only three years old.

His mother, a fine young lady, did not long survive her husband; and the lovely orphan was committed to the care of his uncle; who possessed the family title.

THIS nobleman had a daughter, much about master BROMLEY's age; a fury in her temper, and deformed in her person; devoid of tenderness, devoid of gratitude; nay, excepting her love for her cousin, devoid of every natural sensibility. Who-soever contradicted or opposed her inclination, were sure to bear marks of her resentment about them for some time.

LORD BROMLEY was too indolent in his disposition, and too much addicted to the pleasures of life, to trouble himself with inquiring into the bent of his daughter's inclination. He so far indeed acted the parental part, as to supply her with larger sums of money, than it was usual

usual for so young a lady to be mistress of; and providing her attendants, but, whether proper or improper, was early left to her own giddy judgment.

My lord's fortune was immense, his wife, the sole heiress of a wealthy citizen, had brought him a fortune of seventy thousand pounds; and was most conveniently taken off at the expiration of the first year, in giving him a daughter, as he began long before that period to be immoderately weary of her.

At the house of this relation, was master BROMLEY permitted to run wild until he attained his fourteenth year, at which juncture his father's, consequently lord BROMLEY's, sister (the lady HAMPTON, already mentioned) interfered, and intreated his lordship would send him to some public school, as she was convinced he had a fine natural genius for literature, and promised to be a handsome youth.

My lord replied, with the peculiar ease of right honorable indifference, notwithstanding he felt himself piqued at her ladyship's request, that he had no other objection to placing the boy out, than his daughter's unwillingness to part with him; that her ladyship was vastly kind

kind to take his uncultivated manners into consideration, though he could venture to assure her, he was far from being so illiterate as she imagined, having constantly received lessons from lady MARY's master.

LADY HAMPTON, determined to carry her point, and deliver her nephew from the state he was immured in, took some pains to suppress a smile; and, vav-ing all reply to his lordship's parade, only said, that, if he would consent to the boy's removal, she would undertake to reconcile lady MARY to it.

LORD BROMLEY, who hated the trouble of contending upon any occasion, however consequential, replied, you have my consent, I do assure you. — A pedant is but a coxcomb of a different species to the one he was in danger of becoming by a softer education. — And, added he, with a sneer, I would not for the world, be an impediment to the enlargement of his understanding. Then, touching the bell, with an air of affected serenity, he commanded that BROMLEY should make his appearance.

MASTER, with the wildness of an untamed colt, instantly burst into the room, to the no small shock of lady HAMPTON's delicacy. Come hither, child, said she, extending

extending one of her fine hands, and drawing him gently to her side ; you are quite a little savage, — and must learn to stand still and soften your accent, before I can dispence with much of your company.

O DEAR madam, replied the pert youngster, I should be quite as unwilling to spend much of my time in the same room with you, as you could possibly be to permit me, for I hate restraint.

A VERY decent declaration, truly, returned her ladyship, with great good humor ; you shall be sent to a forest then ; for, at present you appear to be utterly unfit for human society. Do but behold how your hair stares, added she, kindly stroking up his exuberant auburn locks.

YOUR lordship, said master BROMLEY, with a look of impatience, will not detain me long, I hope. For lady MARY and I have just purchased a couple of new spinners, and were trying them in the lobby.

WHAT do yo mean by spinners, BROMLEY, interrogated lady HAMPTON.

TOPS, spinning tops, returned the young gentleman, with great eagerness ; endeavoring at the same time to disengage his hand ; I will fetch you one, if you please to look at it.

No

No no, child, returned lady HAMPTON, I have no curiosity; — and, in my opinion, it is high time you should be put upon more profitable pursuits. You are now a great boy. What say you demanded she, smiling, to going to *Eton* school?

I NEITHER know what to say to it, or think of it, replied master BROMLEY, with a dissatisfied aspect. Must I go, my lord? Your commands are not to be disputed.

My lord had instructed him, notwithstanding his early time of life, that the female part of the world, were too insignificant to be paid much regard to.

I, CHILD, have nothing to do with it I promise you, said his lordship, it is no scheme of mine. — Lady HAMPTON has been accusing me of spoiling you; and, therefore, droling in derision, I have consigned you to her management.

LADY HAMPTON withdrew in quest of her neice; who, with many presents, and much soothing, she prevailed upon to part with her cousin for a few days. — She then called for the boy, and took him, whining, into her chariot, and conveyed him home; where, by the sweetness of her behavior, and sensible conversation, she, at length, won him to her purpose.

It

It was not, however, without great difficulty, that she eradicated many bad customs he had imbibed; he had not an idea of decorum, and had been encouraged to laugh at every species of morality.

His passions were strong, and improperly bent, his imagination was lively, but to the last degree unsteady, his capacity was comprehensive but he was ignorant of its usefulness, and the only pursuit he had any notion of, was amusement; the only restraint he was willing to submit to, my lord's authority.

Her ladyship judged it necessary, in effecting her design, to prevent his having too much connexion with lord BROMLEY; she, therefore, behaved at a distance; and, by a polite shyness, frequently practised by the great, for a less worthy purpose; dwindled the intimacy into cold salutes in public, and, on his lordship's part, much contempt in private.

So soon as this good lady had weaned her charge from his disrelish for a life of reason and regularity, she placed him at *Eton*, under the particular tuition of an eminent divine; where he made a surprising progress in every branch of polite literature; his breast being replete with that proper emulation, which excites

youth to excel, in all that is praise-worthy,

His school intervals were spent at her ladyship's, who was well qualified to cultivate and improve every valuable attainment.

THIS young gentleman was not deterred by his father's unhappy fate, from engaging in a military life; as his natural inclination prompted him to make choice of it. He entered a cadet in the guards at eighteen; at nineteen obtained a pair of colors; and, at the period of captain FARRELL's challenging him, was advanced to a majority; notwithstanding he was not then six and twenty.

His graceful person, rendered him at all times acceptable with the ladies; his good understanding, humanity, and generosity were the admiration of his own sex. No one indeed ever more truly merited universal approbation.

C H A P. XII.

Contains some very decent, sentimental strokes adapted to every capacity—the characteristics of two young fellows—both amiable in their kind though direct contrasts.

—A lively flourish upon a serious subject—when the chapter concludes in the very manner the Author could wish viz. —insensibly leading the reader on, to what he will find in the succeeding pages.

AS DIXON's condition would not permit him, personally, to execute his master's orders respecting Mr. CLIFFEN (at least for some days) that gentleman determined to surprise him with a letter at *Bristol*, immediately upon his arrival; which would answer the double purpose of communicating his obliging intention, and congratulating his friend on the safe termination of his journey.

THIS resolution was barely taken, and the MAJOR risen from under his valet's hands, before his young friends made their appearance.—But, as these youths are a part of the *dramatis personæ*, or principal characters of the history, it cannot be amiss, at this juncture, to introduce them to the reader's acquaintance.

THE elder, whose name was HENRY, had just attained his three and twentieth year, adorned with all the blooming graces of that youthful period. His mind was uncommonly amiable; as gentleness, candor, humanity, and probity were the only inclinations he seemed to be informed with. But, notwithstanding all these endowments, that perverse jade *Fortune* had not been capable of distinguishing him from the herd; but, persisting to bless her stupid favorites whose best recommendation was the being jostled in her way when the bestowing fit was upon her, left him wholly neglected.

BOTH Mr. HENRY and his brother were educated upon the foundation at *Eton*; where the former, from narrow finances and their inseparable mortifications, contracted a humility or meekness of spirit, which even the life of a soldier could not entirely subdue.

THE MAJOR, whose heart was peculiarly calculated to approve and countenance silent worth, selected him from the multitude, as best meriting his warmest attachment. — And, notwithstanding his early (and too frequently unthinking time of life) most kindly rendered his superiority of fortune as easy and advantageous

tageous to his favorite, as he possibly could. The little disparity of their ages was lost in the similarity of their tastes and dispositions; nay, Mr. HENRY was frequently mistaken for the elder of the two, from the uncommon steadiness and solidity of his whole conduct. They were called PYLADES and ORESTES by all their school-fellows, though from different motives; some giving them that title as due to their remarkable friendship for each other, whilst many intended merely to ridicule an affection they were incapable of feeling. A military life became the young gentleman's choice, from being the choice of his friend, and they were wont to amuse themselves whole winter evenings with passing imaginary campaigns, and obtaining signal victories by each other's side. But, unfortunately, Mr. CROSBY could procure no other introduction into the army, than a pair of colors, and a foreign station, where he experienced innumerable dangers and difficulties before the MAJOR, notwithstanding he ever remembered him in the most kindly manner, had it in his power to get him removed into another corps, on its return home; and he forbore putting, what he had long had at heart, into

execution, namely fixing him in his own troop, from the consideration of the havoc a four years' absence from his native country, had made in his constitution, which stood in need of much indulgence and a salutary air, for its reparation; and the MAJOR, as we have already observed, was in daily expectation of leaving *England*.

MR. JAMES CROSBY, only eleven months younger than his brother, was of a quite different spirit, bold, robust, generous, and brave.—The peer, or the tradesman's son, was the same in his estimation, nor was he less severe in his resentment, or warm in his attachment to the one than the other: those who in the course of his school connexions would not love him, he compelled to fear him.—He was ever ready to protect the weak, and humble the strong; and happy was the party that could boast of his favor and countenance. He looked upon the world's prosperity with indifference; adversity, with manly compassion. Gay and lively in his conversation, indefatigable in his pursuits, and independent in his wishes, a naval life became his choice, where he could force himself, as he phrased it, into observation, if not affluence. His
active

active genius could not brook restraint; and, therefore, he was wont to speak ludicrously of the tamer (though equally useful) part of his species, who could submit to the confinement of a city cage, as he called a compting house, the dry tautology of a law office, or the more servile practice, of sneaking after preferment at a great man's levee. His only error was a light opinion he had imbibed of the female world, which he carried to so extravagant a pitch, as to impute watry heads, and milky hearts to the whole race of their votaries.

Soon after these gentlemen joined the MAJOR, dinner was served up; — and, when the cloth was removed, and they began to attack a friendly bottle, the MAJOR entertained them with a preparatory description of his aunt and niece, to whose acquaintance he had engaged to introduce them that very evening; for, as his companions had never resided in *London*, but at certain periods, when he was many miles distant from that metropolis, they were strangers to the persons, though not the fame, of those ladies.

THE MAJOR was very just in his description of his aunt; but, in order to divert himself with an innocent deception,

he painted miss HAMPTON little short of deformity itself. — He bestowed a dowdy complexion upon her, — a contracted and forbidding aspect, — a pair of small grey unmeaning eyes, — a protuberant nose, — extensive mouth, — piqued chin, and thundering voice — With respect to her temper, he left that unattacked; as he had frequently mentioned her as sprightly and agreeable. The MAJOR, considering his rank and fortune, had an uncommon affection for miss HAMPTON, in the double character of friend and relation; but, as she had never inspired him with softer sentiments, he had but seldom made her the subject of his conversation.

CAPTAIN JAMES declared himself greatly rejoiced, to find miss HAMPTON's person was such, as would secure him from the disagreeable necessity of racking his barren invention for compliments. — Your beauties, added he, impose so severe a tax upon one's sincerity, and are so incessantly requiring fresh homage and adoration, that I look upon the hours devoted to their company and pretty unmeaning conversation as absolutely butchered.

JAMES, said the MAJOR, I doubt not but I shall live to hear you speak a different

ent language.—We may affect to despise the ladies as much as we please, but we receive a more elegant polish from the soft refinement they insensibly communicate, than all the rest of the world can give. The book-worm is contemptible, the tar a savage, until the heaviness of the one, and the boisterousness of the other, is enlivened and qualified, by a conformity to that vivacity and decorum, essential to their being admitted to the conversation of the well-bred and sensible part of the sex.

I WOULD willingly travel a thousand miles, replied captain JAMES humorously, to behold that fair one, who has been capable of rendering you so warm an advocate for a set of petticoats—I will acknowledge I am prepared to admire her—nay I will even go so far as to confess, I have no quarrel with those women who can be rational—but they are such rare productions, that were not your aunt and cousin exceptions to the hypothesis, I should consider miss PARNEL as the phoenix of the age.

AMIALE as my heart esteems miss PARNEL, returned the MAJOR, I am far from looking upon her as a singular character. Reason and love, however wisely

fools may refine upon the subject, are by no means incompatible; nor is it possible for me to suppose miss PARNELL has no equal; notwithstanding I am palpably convinced no woman upon earth could have so powerfully attacked me. — But you have given me a theme, added he, smiling, which I could expatiate upon *from morn to dewy eve, a summer's day.*

OH, good sir, cried captain JAMES, I beseech you to reserve your theme unexhausted, until a more suitable period. — We have no summer's days, at present, to throw away; — nor would such softness by any means, correspond with *London* joys. — But, should HENRY once become an innamorato, and a peace take place, then may ye retreat to some sylvan scene, and, comparing your pathetic pity moving notes, more strongly cement your already unexampled friendship, whilst I —

MEET with the due punishment of your insensibility, returned the MAJOR, a perpetual condemnation to solitary complaining, without the consolation of even one sympathizing friend.

JAMES is a happy fellow, at present, said captain HENRY; and, I hope, his airy volatile disposition will at all times
secure

secure from the great misfortune a tender attachment must infallibly prove both to him and myself. — To whom can the poor man be attached without disagreeable consequences? — if his ambition incites him to look up to a woman of fortune, ten to one but he is insulted and despised and should he be captivated by merit alone —

HE must be either a fool or a madman, said captain JAMES, hastily breaking in upon him. The gloomy HENRY, continued he, addressing the MAJOR, has presented us with a most dreary wretched prospect. — We were not born in a romantic age nor are our appetites calculated for the airy subsistence of errant knights. — Merit alone, quotha! — no shadows for me. — If I could indeed pick up any thing so substantial, as ten or twenty thousand pounds, I should perhaps be tempted to purchase it at the expence of my liberty; though, by the way, I should consider it as a most extravagant price.

I COMMEND you, JAMES, said the MAJOR, for your sentiments. — Ambition is by no means an unworthy passion, in a young man; but rather deserves cultivation, under proper restrictions. If you

are not over nice as to your woman, you need not despair of a handsome provision. — We have too many instances of the very refuse of mankind bearing all before them in the fortune hunting trade to doubt the success of real merit, unless we were capable of paying the ladies so vile a compliment, as to suppose, that with so good a person to recommend you, they would have objections to your having been genteelly bred, and being a young fellow of reputation and honor.

I WILL be hanged, said captain JAMES, if the fine feeling HENRY would not be so squeamish, as to decline a tender of that nature, from a fine woman (for his humility would not permit him to speak) either from the apprehension of over charging his gratitude, or some whimsical disgust he would conceive at her breach of delicacy, in making the first advance.

It is well for you, JAMES, said the MAJOR, that our time will not permit you to expose yourself any farther, for I see my carriage is ready, and my aunt is not so fashionable as to drink her tea at eight o'clock at night.

It

It is strange that you cannot be sensible of the dreadful figure you make, whenever you attempt, as on the present occasion, to shine at your brother's expence, for the virtues of his character are such, as must reflect honor upon him, (though mangled in the greatest degree by ridicule, or distorted by ill nature) and teach us at the same time, to entertain, but an indifferent opinion of that person, who can make a sacrifice of his judgement, to indulge his vivacity.

C H A P. XIII.

Contains some useful hints for mothers and daughters, — a piece of sophistry too frequently preached by young minds. — A journey — a visit — a scheme formed in consequence of that visit — with a piece of finesse worthy imitation.

LADY HAMPTON was so well pleased with the young gentlemen, that she gave them a general invitation to her house, with the same unreserved freedom as was practised by her nephew.

MISS, who had a peculiar turn for raillery, was highly taken with captain JAMES's behaviour, — she had been accustomed to be addressed in such idle strains — her tenets no sooner communicated than adopted, — that the contradictory, though polite humor of the handsome jar, had many charms for her.

THIS lady, as we have already intimated, was in her one and twentieth year; a good set of features, the bloom of youth, and an engaging sprightliness rendered her face striking, though not a beautiful one. Her disposition was goodness itself, and so sweetly was her natural vein

vein for satire, tempered by benevolence and candor, that where it created her one little minded enemy, it procured her twenty approving friends.

LADY HAMPTON had displayed her fine talents in their brightest colors, in her daughter's education. She had formed her judgment with unspeakable delicacy, and retained unlimited rule over her, by a filken rein,—she was indeed the companion and friend of her daughter,—and her daughter the affectionate dependent and humble imitator of her mother; the approbation of the sensible was the testimony of her merit—the approbation of her own heart—its reward.

THE MAJOR's scheme of surprising his friends by introducing them to an agreeable female, instead of the one he had described, succeeded to his utmost wish. Mr. HENRY's equal mind did not however betray such palpable systems of astonishment, as his brother's, who starting back a few paces in great confusion—was unable to acquit himself of the ceremony usual upon such occasions, with the grace it required.

THE MAJOR took upon him to account for his deficiency with much pleasantry, and bore so hard upon captain JAMES, that

that he could not rally his spirits for some time, — especially as his heart had undergone an uncommon palpitation from the irresistible vivacity of miss HAMPTON's eyes. — He however, at length, became so collected as to bear no inconsiderable part in that afternoon's conversation.

FROM this period the gentlemen perfectly lived at lady HAMPTON's, not a day passing without their spending some hours of it at *Privy Garden*.

THE young lady had no conception, that her acquaintance with captain JAMES (notwithstanding she found her good liking increase with every renewed visit) could ever be productive of any unpleasant consequence.

It was true, that in his absence every incident that occurred, either trivial or important, was connected with his idea, — what would captain JAMES say upon such or such an occasion? What would be his sentiments — how would he act — would he, or would he not be affected, were for ever the suggestions of her heart.

A REFLECTION would sometimes strike her, — but why captain JAMES, and not his brother, — but then the reason always presented itself — he is lively and
has

has similar sensations with myself.—This excellent solution passed current, and miss HAMPTON was entirely unsuspecting of the empire, a little mischievous deity was industriously erecting in her heart, to destroy her peace.

THE MAJOR at this puncture receiving a letter from Mr. CLIFFEN, informing him that his brother most gladly accepted his offer, and was impatient to come to town, he was so very complaisant as to leave his house, agreeably to the resolution he had taken, and dispense with a single apartment, with his young friends.

SIR ARTHUR, who had immediate intelligence of this particular, prepared for his journey with all expedition, not a little delighted at the diminution of those expences, he had laid down as infallible in this excursion, by having his lodging gratis.

THE manner in which this good family travelled, was by no means a contrast to sir FRANCIS WRONGHEAD's memorable journey.

ON this side of a great old built coach was placed the two ladies, Mrs. DOLLY their hand-maid, and the gloomy knight occupying the other, an overgrown
spaniel

spaniel, the property and favorite of Sir ARTHUR, was posted at one of the windows (and to preserve the uniformity of the thing) a sweet little Dutch bitch cur, of Miss MARGARET's, drew the attention of all beholders to the opposite one; whilst on her lap sat purring with great demureness, a beautiful tortoise-shell cat which that good lady had been frequently heard to declare enjoyed a larger share of her affection, than any friend or relation she had upon earth.

THEY were drawn by a heavy set of ill matched beasts, — their coachman was lean and meagre — their postilion was fat and greasy, and, to complete all, by way of decoration, an enormous sized trunk was strapt on behind for the double convenience of their cloaths, and accommodating Mr. JACOB with a seat; whose figure, no less than his situation, did not a little contribute to the magnificence of the equipage.

SIR ARTHUR's pride was rather mortified at the compliments JACOB received from the stage-coachmen, waggoners, and waggon-passengers, they passed in the course of their peregrination — but as the glasses were drawn up, and (when they had gained the high road at the end
of

of *Coventry* town) the carriage out of every one's knowledge, he hugged himself from the old proverb of, Let them laugh who win, for the travelling expences of an extra horse, besides the loss of flesh, he would in all probability have sustained in performing so long a journey, was a consoling circumstance, that suffices over-balanced their momentary and unprofitable mirth.

MISS CLIFFEN thought the journey tedious—but patience was a lesson she had not then to learn, she therefore supported these new scenes with great composure, and they, at length, arrived safe in *Grosvenor-square*.

THE MAJOR made them a polite complimentary visit the ensuing morning, and was most graciously received by the baronet, who was, indeed, profuse in his acknowledgments for the favor that gentleman had conferred upon him, intreating he would add to it by letting him see him often—and, on the MAJOR's intimating his expectations of leaving *England*, expressed a sorrow he was incapable of feeling on any occasion, that secured him from expence.

MAJOR BROMLEY, notwithstanding he was far from being charmed with sir

ARTHUR'S

ARTHUR's behavior, or the person of his stiff looking sister, beheld his daughter with uncommon delight.

THE beauty of her aspect—the softness of her manners, and her easy engaging address, so agreeably deluded him, that he was more than half persuaded, he was conversing with his beloved miss PARNELL. The improbability of their being relations (as he had never heard the engineer mention his alliance to such a family) and the impossibility of there being so striking a resemblance between unrelated persons, puzzled him extremely: he indulged himself with lengthening his visit to the utmost politeness would admit, and even then took his leave with palpable regret.

MISS MARGARET rejoiced at his departure, rude creature as he was; had he no eyes but for such a raw unbred thing as her niece?

THE truth was, that, during the MAJOR's visit, she had made a most attractive display of her charms—but, had met with her usual mortification, she being totally disregarded. She flew immediately to her apartment, where Mrs. DOLLY was busied in unpacking their gay trappings,

trappings, and almost out of breath with resentment.

Is there any thing uncommonly frightful in my dress to day, DOLLY, demanded she, or engaging in my niece's, that she alone should be the object of attention; I protest I was never so grossly neglected before in my whole life.

INDEED madam, said the well disposed, though flattering DOLLY, I think I never saw you look better, than you have done this morning. — My young mistress cannot pretend to vie with you in taste, nor indeed does she, for I have often heard her say, my aunt is amazingly happy in her fancy, and dresses with great judgement.

WHAT could the fellow mean then, returned miss MARGARET, I tell you I was utterly disregarded.

PERHAPS, madam, said DOLLY (a sentiment she borrowed from her elder mistress) the gentleman was only pitying my young lady's bashfulness and innocence.

IGNORANCE, call it ignorance, dear DOLLY, said miss MARGARET interrupting her. —

WELL then, madam, said DOLLY, dropping a curtesy, with your leave ignorance,

rance, when you imagined he was admiring her.

I vow, DOLLY, said miss MARGARET, with a simpering grace, you are infinitely agreeable—and have a better understanding than you folks are in general possessed of,—then your expressions are happy—and your ideas,—you are seldom mistaken in your ideas.—I begin to think I wronged the gentleman, he was by no means a bad figure, and we may see him again perhaps, poor timid soft tool, how I too pity her.

ALL this passed whilst the lady altered her head dress, and she returned to the parlor, in the most perfect harmony of spirits imaginable.

DOLLY's finesse proceeded from an honest cause,—her attachment to miss CLIFFEN—whose life would have been one continual scene of unhappiness, if this prudent good-natured young woman, had not, by playing the hypocrite in a most egregious degree, occasionally reconciled her to herself, her niece, and all the world.

WHEN the MAJOR returned to his lodgings, he informed his young friends how much he had been surprized and pleased

pleased with miss CLIFFEN. He was extravagant in his encomiums upon her face, her shape, her every excellence.

MR. JAMES CROSBY'S countenance wore a sarcastic smile during the gentleman's warm description, and, on his concluding with the declaration, that no heart could resist her charms, that was not captivated by some other object, he cried out, bear me to her, MAJOR, bear me to her, I can stand the fire of her eyes undaunted; however divine she may think herself, or you describe her—you will find me invulnerable.

WITHOUT doubt, said the MAJOR, it will not be long before she makes a visit at my aunt's, I will then introduce you, JAMES, but at your peril be it—we will give you no quarter as a winner for your unprecedented hardness and vanity.

I ACCEPT your terms, said Mr. JAMES, but HENRY shall not be of the party, his tender sympathy-feling disposition is calculated to lead him into some such scrapes, and I will not be accessary.

YOUR pardon sir, returned the MAJOR, they seem formed for each other, and I determined whilst I beheld her to procure him an interview. She has a
fine

fine fortune, your brother's merit must engage her approbation, and I think I have sufficient interest to insure him one great friend in the family. I will leave nothing unattempted to raise him to that situation, nature evidently intended him for, by the uncommon pains she bestowed in the formation of his mind and manners.

AND yet, MAJOR, said captain JAMES, you must allow, that the good dame committed a horrible blunder with respect to HENRY, either from malice or ignorance, or she would never have dressed up such meekness as he possesses in a masculine habit.

IF meekness is only another name for humanity, young spark, returned the MAJOR, your wit may not be altogether ill-adapted, though I think you pay us of the masculine gender, a most hideous compliment, when you would deprive us, of what alone distinguishes us from the brute creation.

JAMES, said captain HENRY, is ever ridiculing a feeling, which I am confident he himself experiences in an almost adequate degree with his brother; if the volatile disguise it wears in his breast
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 was

was but stripped off, nor indeed is that the only deception his vivacity imposes upon.

Dixon's appearance put a period to their conversation, by informing them that the morning was far advanced.

ADY HAMPTON, out of compli-
ment to Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN, paid
a visit to George, and gave the
ladies, as well as Mr. ARTHUR, a very po-
lite invitation to dine with her the next
day.

The patient excused herself to avoid
the expense of returning the favor, on
account of an engagement; but told her
sister and daughter
that she reserved the pleasure of wait-
ing upon her.

Mr. Major and his friends went to
be of the party, and the ladies were
expected to be very early.
The ladies, except the great lady, were
not very numerous.

C H A P. XIV.

Contains a demonstration of the ill-effects of vanity—an instance of the humor and insincerity of mankind. —The private reflections of two ladies upon a similar subject,—concluding with the premature of the one—and heroic resolutions of the other.

LADY HAMPTON, out of compliment to Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN, paid a visit at *Grosvenor-square*, and gave the ladies, as well as sir ARTHUR, a very polite invitation to dine with her the next day.

THE baronet excused himself, to avoid the expence of returning the favor, on pretence of an engagement; but told her ladyship, that his sister and daughter should do themselves the pleasure of waiting upon her.

THE MAJOR and his friends were to be of the party, and the dinner hour was impatiently expected by every separate person, except the grave lady HAMPTON.

THE

THE period of assembling, however, at length arrived, and when the first ceremonies were over, they became insensibly familiar, and pleased with each other; good humor and complacency glowed on every cheek, and miss MARGARET's hard features were in some measure relaxed.

THIS lady's particular turn was not long undiscovered by the arch captain JAMES, who, merely by the levity of his disposition, affected to be struck with her taste and address, and gave evident tokens of singular approbation.

MISS MARGARET, in whose composition ingratitude to an admirer had no share, was so sensible of the distinction paid her, that she had no attention but for him, and listened to some of the brightest speeches he had ever attempted to utter in his whole life, with unwearied pleasure and satisfaction.—And when the parting hour came, the captain compleated his conquest of her heart, by insisting upon waiting upon her home, especially as he, by a sly insinuation, as he handed her out of the carriage, gave her to un-

derstand, he should be very unhappy if he did not see her again in a short time.

CAPTAIN JAMES was so much diverted at this antiquated virgin, as in her absence he politely styled her, that he declared he would take every opportunity of feeding her vanity by a repetition of the same idle things, he had that day entertained her with—adding, that he could hardly restrain his laughter at the rebukive looks the MAJOR and his brother cast at him, and the formal shew of civility they observed towards her—extolled his own ingenuousness to the skies, protesting he would as soon be guilty of high treason as hypocrisy.

JAMES, said the MAJOR, your vivacity transports you beyond your reason, what name can you give to your late behavior? Raillery, raillery, replied he, the man that runs, may read it.

BUT are you not convinced, said the MAJOR, that the lady put a literal construction upon all you said.

I HAD no desire she should, returned he, it was the folly of her own conduct, that

that induced me to assume a false character, and she must answer it to herself—it is no concern of mine.

YOUR doctrine JAMES, said the MAJOR, is far from orthodox, for though I must acknowledge the lady was in some measure to blame, I cannot wholly acquit you,—we ought to compassionate, not ridicule the weakness of our fellow mortals.

YOUR humble servant, father FRANCIS, said captain JAMES, bowing humorously—but let me tell you, that even the faint-like disposition you would recommend has its limitations,—the personal or intellectual defects of the human species demand our pity—but the follies of the world are food for satire, and I was, and ever shall be a cormorant there. But my brother's sentiment of the niece—what says our HENRY to the lovely maid?—

OUR HENRY, as you call him, said the MAJOR, cannot but approve her, but I perceive the gratification of your idle humor will be productive of some very unpleasing consequences.

AND pray, returned Mr. JAMES, what wise thing may your honor's foresight suggest.

THAT the elder lady, said the MAJOR, will most certainly expect the admiration you have affected to be inspired with, to increase with your acquaintance, consequently the least falling off in that particular would be taken so heinously by her, as to occasion an insuperable bar to all future access with either.

OH sir, said Mr. JAMES, you may compose your apprehensions upon that account, for I do assure you, HENRY shall never be a sufferer from his brother's levity;—for should it become essential, I will even marry the lady to serve him,—it is but obtaining successive foreign stations—a deliverance many an honest fellow vainly sighs for.

SUCH was the gentlemen's conversation, and, notwithstanding the ladies were far from being equally communicative, their thoughts were not the less employed by the company they had quitted.

MISS

MISS MARGARET complained of weariness, and retired immediately to her apartment, in order to indulge the overflowings of her heart without interruption; her niece followed her example for once unreluctantly, and they separately laid their heads upon their pillow, not to court repose—but give a loose to meditation.

MISS CLIFFEN involuntarily wished for another interview with the handsome brothers; she admired captain JAMES's sprightliness and humor, but she thought Mr. HENRY had greatly the advantage both in figure and politeness. Such delicacy in his expressions, such sensibility in his manner—the most accomplished that she had ever conversed with, and properly calculated to please her taste. What deference did he not pay to her judgment—what elegant, what well-chosen compliments did he address to her,—she had never experienced so much pleasure in any visit before in her whole life.

SHE then lamented her aunt's unhappy vanity. — Upon recollection thought it

rather ungenteel of captain JAMES to take advantage of it, and so evidently divert himself at her expence: she had observed his brother to cast many disapproving looks upon him, but he was incorrigible:

How amiable the contrast, — he was incapable of that little satisfaction the weakness or follies of a woman could communicate to a narrow mind, — in short, she would endeavor to go to sleep and think no more of him.

SHE did so — but Mr. HENRY CROSBY's image still presented itself — and she was obliged once more to resolve, on her awaking — that she would never again permit him to enter her thoughts.

MISS MARGARET passed the night in the most pleasing cogitations imaginable, — she had often concluded she had given gentlemen their death's wound, from a much slighter or rather no foundation, — no wonder then she should conceive amazing expectations from captain JAMES's behavior.

BUT, as an amour had no charms in her imagination unless conducted with an
air

air of mystery, she determined to intimate to her lover (provided he gave her an opportunity by soliciting permission to wait upon her) that she was not at liberty to receive his visits publicly, for that her brother, who was a man of a most peculiar turn of mind, was extremely averse to her entering into any tender engagement, from the narrow motive of augmenting his daughter's already preposterous fortune by retaining her single.

MISS MARGARET was conscious that this precaution was necessary in order to prevent sir ARTHUR's taking alarm at the unsuitableness of her lover's age, and perhaps small fortune, with fifty other perhappes equally in disfavor of her farther connexion with him, — all of which she intended artfully to cover under the suggestion above-mentioned.

BUT what recommended the scheme she was forming, beyond every other consideration was the quickening effect it would infallibly have upon the captain; for she had been informed both from reading and conversation, that difficulties were ever delightful to a lover, — consequently, that he who visited his mistress by stealth,

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could alone be capable of experiencing all those pleasing perturbations—so often affected, but never truly felt, except in a clandestine interview.

THE pretty confusion, youthful apprehensions, and mutual felicity peculiar to such occasions, were not only eligible but perfectly enchanting; and she trembled lest any evil accident should prevent her putting her design into execution.

A CONFIDANT was the next thing that occurred to her, as being an inseparable appendix to an amour. This article gave her great perplexity, it could not be her niece—impossible—she was formal in sentiments, such a lover of decorum, that she was utterly disqualified for that honor.

THEIR maid—worse and worse—her neice would too probably worm the secret out of her—and a second-hand information give an ill-appearance to what in itself was extremely natural and innocent.

THE house-maid, cook, &c. &c. severally presented themselves to her busy imagination,

imagination, but were rejected for good and substantial reasons.

At length, JACOB came under consideration; his simplicity—the many years he had lived in the family, a shrewdness so bordering upon discretion; his love of money—his parade when even employed in common matters, but above all, the integrity and address with which he had executed every commission she had intrusted him with, pleaded strongly in his favor.

BUT alas, his sex was an objection, it was impossible she could interrogate him with so little reserve as a female, respecting the looks, the expressions, and tender disorder of her lover upon the receipt of every affectionate epistle or happy assignation. —What felicity! —Yet she must sacrifice it to her better interest of having a go-between she could rely upon.

SOME further time elapsed before she could determine in what language to break the affair to him; — when lo, the uncertainty of her having occasion for his assistance, stared her in the face in so bold and confident a manner, that she was

quite out of countenance; and as it were involuntarily acknowledged, that it would be wisest to regulate her future conduct by captain JAMES's behavior; nevertheless repeating her resolution, that JACOB should be the person employed, if she could but procure him business.

THIS lady was however soon convinced, that she might have spared herself the trouble of casting about for a confidant, as she had the pleasure of seeing the gentleman very near as often as she could with decency wish at lady HAMPTON's, without the least interruption from her brother, who never suffered himself to be prevailed upon, to engage in one of their parties.

His time indeed was more nobly spent, than in harmless chat or rational visits, fortune having been so peculiarly indulgent to him a few succeeding days after his arrival in town as to cast an old acquaintance in his way, that in every respect suited his purposes and inclination.

THIS acquaintance, whose name was PETERSON, had been a wag in his youth, and still retained such a degree of levity
in

in his conduct and conversation, as rendered him at all times an acceptable companion with the coronet. They had had several frolics together at *Paris*, when sir ARTHUR traveled for improvement, and the profound secrecy PETERSON had observed, respecting every such connexion, had not a little contributed to establish the causal attachment.

BUT as caution was the card sir ARTHUR played during his father's life, he, though most reluctantly, declined all correspondence with his favorite, on account of his profligate character, for fear of detection, and he had too well studied sir CHRISTOPHER's disposition, to flatter himself with the least degree of toleration, if ever caught tripping, consequently this unexpected favor of the fickle goddess, was of treble value, from his having for many years utterly despaired, of ever again enjoying his much loved company.

A NEIGHBORING coffee-house, into which the baronet had strolled for the sake of dissipation, was most happily productive of his reunion with this long lost brother in iniquity, who (under the direction

rection of some propitious spirit) had seated himself in the most conspicuous box, where he perused the papers and sipped his capillaire with equal composure.

THE lines of each of their countenances were too strongly marked, for even the iron hand of time to have wrought any considerable alteration, therefore their eyes were mutually struck, their hearts reciprocally affected and the exclamations; Can it be PETERSON! — Sure it is Mr. CLIFFEN! no sooner discharged than the warmly pressed hand confirmed their doubtful happiness.

THEY then, with one consent, hastened to a private room, where sir ARTHUR communicated his change of fortune, and unchanged bent of inclination.

Two bottles of claret instantly bled in honor of their past and unexpectedly renewed friendship, at the conclusion of which Mr. PETERSON proposed introducing the baronet to a fine woman of his acquaintance, with whom he could insure him a most welcome reception. — A proposal that was gladly accepted by that gentleman, as it was the very thing he could

could have wished; they therefore sallied forth to pay their devoirs, and so well did the lady acquit herself, that sir ARTHUR was dubbed keeper that very evening. Mr. PETERSON had a snug box at *Richmond* where he frequently accommodated his friends, and rendered himself a most useful and obliging person.

MISS CLIFFEN had the misfortune to discover her father's taste for vicious amusements, in a short time after they were settled in *London*; a discovery that proved a perpetual alloy to the felicity she would otherwise have derived from her agreeable connexions: it was her innocence and affection, that had alone prevented her from becoming sensible of it in the country, nor would any other, than a most notoriously flagrant incident have opened her eyes.

SHE presumed to express much unhappiness upon the occasion, which did not fail to incur her father's mortal displeasure, notwithstanding her remonstrances were tempered by the nicest sense of duty, and all that delicacy and softness, that were her principal characteristics.

SIR

SIR ARTHUR, however, forbore flying out, as was his usual custom when offended, but it was the consideration of his own reputation, not parental tenderness, that restrained him; and as he every day became more and more attached to his pleasures, consequently alienated from his child, he secretly determined to revenge the affront she had given him, by disposing of her the very first opportunity.

MISS CLIFFEN was too well acquainted with her father's temper, not to be sensible that he was forming some plot against her; and as she had rather hastily parted with her heart, even beyond her own power of recalling it, she trembled for the consequence; what she could, she did, towards the recovery of the little perverse fugitive, — now soothing — now chiding — but, at length, finding that like a froward child, it became only the more refractory, the more it was corrected; she gave it over for lost, and sat down tolerably content, from having nothing to reproach herself with in the whole affair.

CHAP. XV.

A very soft pretty reading chapter, love being the chief subject, — except, indeed, where an ugly design is formed by an ungenerous mother, in order to eradicate that tender passion from her daughter's heart.

MISS MARGARET, at length, attained the desire of her heart, and the trusty JACOB was brought into employment. It was true, she had had the pleasure of hearing one and the same story so frequently repeated, that it was a great reflection upon her memory, that even one syllable should be new to her; but, there was still something to sigh for, she had not an evidence of her swain's fidelity or admiration beyond what occasionally fell from his lips, and, as his expressions were perfect hieroglyphics, as it were, of his mind, she could not rest until she obtained a visible and speaking copy — or in other words, a tender epistle.

THE captain was, for some time, very dull in his apprehensions, which occasioned his fair mistress unspeakable mortification,

tification; but in the end she condescended to become so very explicit, that captain JAMES, not only perfectly understood her meaning, but acquitted himself of a literary essay to his own, and the lady's satisfaction.

THIS point gained, miss MAEGARET would neither suffer her lover or herself to be idle; she was punctual to a nicety in returning answers, consequently the ball ever rested with the captain, who could not consistently with politeness, or rules of amour, suffer it long to enjoy the blessing of inactivity.

BUT if the lady was flattered, the gentleman was entertained in the highest degree, the false orthography, far-fetched expressions, and glaring affectation, with which every new instance of her folly was decorated, proved an inexhaustible fund of mirth for him. But had his inclination prompted him to retreat, he would have been restrained from putting it in execution, by the consideration of its being incompatible with his brother's interest.

ALL miss CLIFFEN'S prudence was not proof against captain CROSBY'S eloquence,

quence, and her aunt's example; but, as her heart had betrayed her into a clandestine attachment, she was by the force of her lover's arguments, prevailed upon to enter into a clandestine correspondence.

SHE was much dissatisfied with herself for giving into such a step, but then, as she never gave her gentleman the most distant hope of bestowing her hand upon him, unless it were possible to remove that mountain of impediments that stood between her father's and uncle's consent, to such an unprofitable, however happy union, there could be no great harm in it; — she was only following her aunt's lead, — and, indeed, was much less excusable, as she sought no other gratification, than what flattery could bestow. Whereas captain HENRY's letters softened her cares, brightened her amusements, and, in short, afforded her such innocent, though heart-felt satisfaction, — she could not think of depriving herself of it. He was a means likewise of improving her understanding, his sentiments were so refined, his notions of life so just, and his knowledge of the world so extensive. She found herself a very ignorant creature, and

and should not do herself justice if she neglected such an opportunity of enlarging her mind. It also rendered her a more expert pen-woman than usual, — how rapidly her thoughts flowed in upon her, — she was amazed, so as she used to detest writing, and now always quitted it with reluctance, seeming ever to have left something of moment unsaid. She was entirely indebted to the captain for that conquest of her indolence, nor indeed was it the only favor she had to thank him for.

MISS CLIFFEN's answers to Mr. CROSBY's most tender epistles were such, as reflected honor upon her sex, her lover and herself, and could not fail of proving excellent patterns for young ladies under similar circumstances; could the author without destroying the thread of his history introduce them, but as that is impossible, he leaves it to the delicate and lively imagination of his readers to suggest her sentiments, assisting so far, however, as to tell them no affected coldness, no unbecoming warmth appeared in one single expression; but elegance, tenderness, modesty and sincerity governed the whole; many might have wrote more wittily,

wittily, many more learnedly, not one more properly, they were, in short, in the language of Mr. POPE.

*Nature to advantage drest
What oft was thought, but ne'er so well
express'd.*

LADY HAMPTON's penetration would not permit her to be long insensible, that captain JAMES had made a conquest of her daughter's heart; she indeed very unwillingly admitted the suspicion, but upon due observation found it impossible to doubt.

THE young lady's vivacity began to droop, except when animated by his presence and conversation; she was apparently discomposed at the assiduities he paid miss MARGARET, as she was unacquainted with his motive, grew fond of retirement, sighed frequently without appearing conscious of it, and in a word, betrayed every love-like symptom.

LADY HAMPTON, notwithstanding she was superior to every narrow prejudice, and generously approved and countenanced the meritorious, of whatever rank or denomination, was both mortified and
alarmed

alarmed at her daughter's growing inclination for a young fellow, whose connexions were obscure—prospects to the last degree limited—and whose morals, could she have over-looked every other article, would have proved an insuperable objection. Captain JAMES was too volatile and giddy-headed to be much upon his guard in any company, and as he had no particular reason to induce him to suppress his natural levity, even in lady HAMPTON's presence, so long as he kept to the windward of brutality or ill-manners; he had made no secret of his aversion to a life of shackles as he termed the matrimonial, nor was he either mortified or offended at receiving a grave lecture upon such occasion from that good lady.

Her ladyship was greatly perplexed in what manner to avail herself of this disagreeable discovery — she was persuaded austerities would be unnecessary with such a mind as miss HAMPTON possessed — nor could she have been capable in all events of practising it without wounding her own heart. To have that child unhappy, whose felicity alone had for many years been the object of her attention

tion and purpose of her life, was a reflexion she could not support, and she, at length, determined to take her nephew's advice in so critical and important an affair. It was not long before she found an opportunity of engaging him privately, when she communicated all her anxiety, and its source without reserve.

THE MAJOR had made the same discovery as her ladyship some time before, and was almost equally concerned at it.

I WOULD not for the world, said lady HAMPTON, add to my child's affliction, she is sufficiently punished in having permitted her inclinations to be engaged by a man of so careless and inattentive a disposition, that I dare believe he is the last who will suspect the advantage he has gained. I blame myself, continued she, for my own folly and narrow-sightedness in exposing FANNY to the misfortune she had incurred by promoting the acquaintance.—But what could I do—the custom of the age obliges us to have some connexion with your sex,—and I flattered myself I had performed my part when
I encouraged

I encouraged only the visits of men of honor.

I AM sorry madam, said the MAJOR, that I should have been accessory, by my introduction of these young fellows to your ladyship's and my cousin's uneasiness, but there is no foreseeing events — I would not be understood to plead in a wrong cause, yet you must give me leave to say, that if personal and mental accomplishments could be deemed a compensation for want of fortune, no men upon earth are more worthy consideration than JAMES and his brother.

WERE we to wave all mention of pecuniary advantages, returned lady HAMPTON; and allow your friend all that merit your partiality prompts you to impute to him, — would not my daughter's passion still be hopeless, unless we could condescend to give the insensible youth a direct intimation of it — but as it is apparent, his disposition is not in any degree calculated to make a well-judging woman happy, we need not call in a stronger objection.

I CAN

I CAN suggest but one remedy, madam, said the MAJOR, — remove my cousin from town — JAMES's insensibility and FANNY's well known delicacy will secure you from every apprehension of his either following, or corresponding with her.

BUT what will secure me, said her ladyship, hastily, from the knowledge of my child, being unhappy, — however, resumed she, after a short pause, we must render the separation as tolerable to her as possible, — and in order to prevent her discovering or even suspecting that she is conveyed into the country upon his account, we must have recourse to some little artifice; — I am convinced the town would have no charms for her, if he was to quit it, and therefore would wish to impose a tale upon her that should make our retreat her own request.

BUT do you think this caution necessary, returned the MAJOR, — declaring your own inclination to visit your seat, would be sufficient. My cousin —

I NEVER yet, said her ladyship breaking in upon him rather abruptly, found

FANNY deficient in even a point of complaisance, I cannot therefore doubt her where her duty is concerned; but, nephew, it is plain, you have not so much attended to the operations of the human heart as myself, or you would be sensible, that lenity can alone subdue a passion of this nature. — It hurts us to have our judgments called in question upon any occasion, but more particularly where the heart not the head is concerned. Parental care begins to lose its weight, and filial affection to decline, the moment love takes possession of a young breast. — Opposition contributes to the extinction of both, and the misfortune is, that whatever the parent is deprived of, the lover acquires. FANNY has as yet taken no step, but what demands compassion, rather than reproach, but was she once apprized of my dissatisfaction, my hurrying her into the country, though merely with a view to heal her peace, would be construed a distrust of her prudence, nor should I be able to convince her I did not apprehend the young man had an intention to address her, and she to encourage him, — war would be instantly declared — and, as I had commenced hostilities, I must take the consequence; — she

she would conceive him as no less injured by my proceedings than herself, — and in short, I should finally accomplish, what I should be endeavoring to prevent — the favorable impresson she has received of him becoming permanent.

It was at last settled between them, that the MAJOR should engage captain JAMES to attend him to *Bath*, under pretence of business with Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN, and that he should bring him to take a formal leave of his friend in *Privy-Garden*; lady HAMPTON's heart seemed greatly relieved by this consultation, as she flattered herself it would be productive of the wished for success.

C H A P. XV.

Contains what cannot fail of pleasing every reader under eighteen. — But, as it tends to clear up some rather obscure passages in this history, must not be passed over by any age or sex, unless they are content to drop both author and work at this period.

WHEN the MAJOR returned to his lodgings, he was greatly surprized to find Captain HENRY CROSBY, with the utmost dejection of aspect, waiting his arrival.

His heart immediately fluttered, as it were, from sympathy, with uncommon apprehensions.

MAJOR, said Captain JAMES, with his usual gaiety, we have news for you. — But why, added he, looking archly, that dolorous look? — What terrible misfortune do you imagine is in store for you?

THE MAJOR's spirits by no means corresponding with his friend's, he intreated,

ed, with an anxiously inquisitive air, that he would not keep him in suspense.

ARE you prepared, then, replied Captain JAMES abruptly, for a second embarkation?

THE MAJOR instantly reproached himself for the little deceit he had been planning with his aunt. — This unexpected summon (for he had hoped to obtain some home station, notwithstanding he was reserved in that particular) appearing to him in the light of a judgement. — What had he to do with mothers and daughters? — Or how could he in conscience condemn his cousin for the choice she had made, when he himself was wholly attached to merit.

THESE reflexions engrossed him so entirely for a few moments, that he was totally insensible of every thing around him, but recollecting himself, and assuming the best grace his circumstances would admit; I am conscious, JAMES, said he, that I must make a very ridiculous figure in the airy judgement of such a spark as you are, for receiving a piece of information I ought to have been prepared for,

from the nature of my profession, with such apparent dissatisfaction.

For my part, returned Captain JAMES, with affected astonishment, I am perfectly petrified — perhaps it is sympathy: for, though HENRY is ordered only to join his regiment in the *Isle of Wight*, he has been drooping ever since.

I CAN judge of his feelings by my own, said the MAJOR. — Now must the cause of our hearts stand still; never more, perhaps, to be prosecuted with success. A multiplicity of affairs has detained me in town, and I have suffered myself to be deluded by the false hopes I received from a man in power; that my corps, in consideration of the hardships it has lately endured, would not be required to leave *England* again, except on some extraordinary emergency.

I CANNOT, for my life, said Captain JAMES, see how either your multiplicity of business or your embarkation can affect your love. — The services you have rendered miss PARNEL, the superiority of your fortune —

MIGHT

MIGHT purchase, JAMES, I allow you, said the MAJOR, hastily interrupting him, if not win, her heart. — How can you be so void of delicacy? — Was gratitude alone to induce miss PARNEL to be mine, though that circumstance is so essential to my happiness, I could not receive the tribute of her hand. — How can you then once suppose I would accept a mercenary heart. She is formed by nature for the utmost refinements of love and friendship: I am convinced I have inspired her with the latter, but it is inadequate to my sensations, unless in conjunction with the former.

WHAT would the man be at, cried Captain JAMES, with his loves and his friendships, his delicacies and conjunctions? — Would it not turn your squeamish stomach to have the lady make the first advance?

STILL wide from the mark, JAMES, replied the MAJOR. — No: I would not be shocked at a too explicit acknowledgment of her approbation. — But I would steal it from her by insensible degrees. — Her eyes — her softened accent, and a thousand engaging, delightful incon-

sistences, should betray her heart-felt tenderness. I acknowledge I have acted very mysteriously. — Her consenting to tolerate FARRELL's pretensions, though I applauded the motive, disgusted me. — I was upon the point of disclosing my sentiments — had flattered myself that I had obtained an interest in her affections — when that puppy stepped in, and, by dazzling her relations with the prospect of his fortune, obliged me to make a cruel retreat. — It was not a subject to enter upon with the dear dutiful girl. — Her hesitation stung me, and I determined to abide the event, cost me what pangs it would. — I desisted my visits in great measure, for I found my resolution weakened by her presence; and we had been both undone if she had discovered my real sentiments at that juncture.

You had not then rendered her any extraordinary services, said Captain JAMES, therefore her gratitude was not in the question at that period.

BUT, shall I be able at last, JAMES, said the MAJOR, to explain myself to your dull comprehension. — Without vanity, the woman who could descend to
bestow

bestow one thought upon such a wretch
as FARRELL —

OH, oh, my good sir, cried Mr. JAMES, I now begin to understand you; your vanity would not have been at all gratified, if, on your application, the Captain had been rejected, and your merit allowed the preference. — You have fetched a violent compass in coming to the point. — But how happened it that you suppressed the tender declaration when you were so conveniently cooped up for eight days in a cabin together?

THE dejection of her spirits, returned the MAJOR, rendered that an unfit time for an overture of that nature, if I could have conquered the objections I have already mentioned, which had received additional force from FARRELL's scandalous and inhumane behavior. I endeavored, indeed, to make my actions as expressive as possible, in hopes, that the gentle impression of that friendship she did profess for me, might be so far ripened into love, as to secure her heart unengaged, until I should have a happy opportunity of removing all my doubts, by spending some time with her previous to

her knowledge of my partiality. — But I am now amply punished for neglecting so many favorable moments as I have enjoyed. — And, should I embark without explaining myself, and lose her for ever, farewell to every kind of felicity.

LOVE, returned Captain JAMES, with affected gravity, when it proves an incitement to laudable ambition, is a desirable inhabitant of the human breast; — but, if it renders the meek coxcomb a bully, or the hardy soldier a meek coxcomb, it ought to be expelled with the utmost vigilance and resolution.

WOULD you mean to intimate, said the MAJOR, with a half-pleased accent, that I am in danger of degenerating into the latter character?

HUM — not absolutely, returned Captain JAMES, with an agreeable negligence, — but your distemper may increase — I do not apprehend it is yet at its height — and would, therefore, recommend lenitives.

I MUST tell you, said the MAJOR, looking very gravely upon him, your raillery is not well timed; — nevertheless,

to

to convince you that my martial spirit is not so easily subdued as you may imagine, I declare myself ready to obey my sovereign's commands, let them be of whatsoever nature they may. — I can do violence to my tenderest inclination for the important purpose of defending my king and country.

AND can MAJOR BROMLEY, said Mr. JAMES, be seriously offended at the idle rattle of his friend?

JAMES, returned the MAJOR, forgive my petulance. — I am not myself. — My behavior sufficiently evinces I am not — But the subject we were upon, in my opinion, was too interesting to be sported with. — But, continued he, assuming a sprightly air, I will never again suffer my folly to subdue my better judgement. — My profession renders fatigues and disappointments inevitable — nor is the laurel wreath attainable but by those whose hardy footsteps can beat down the briars and thorns that impede their passage to the eminence on which it is hung.

BRAVELY observed, cried Captain JAMES, shaking hands with the MAJOR,

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thus are we once more upon a friendly footing. — Instead of having disagreed, we ought to have exerted our joint endeavors to cheer our brother *Despondence*, pointing to Captain HENRY. I question if he has heard one syllable of our bright conversation.

Do what you can for him, said the MAJOR, smiling, whilst I retire, in order, by a moment's recollection, to put myself in a condition to be serviceable to him. — The blind leading the blind is a shocking sight.

THE MAJOR no sooner entered his apartment, than, drawing a slender bolt, to prevent a surprize, he began to indulge himself, as was his daily custom, with viewing a little resemblance already mentioned.

ALAS, said he, sighing, of what variegated materials is the human heart composed! — When I contemplate this dear object, how am I softened by the pleasing influence of affection, tenderness, and admiration! — The elegant symmetry of these features, with the irresistible recollection of the valuable soul by which they

they are animated — how do they search and agitate my heart! — Could I then support the loss of her for ever?

THEN, striking his hand, by way of correction, upon his forehead, he cried, But whither would these tender reflexions lead me?

WHEN I behold those martial habiliments (casting his eyes upon his regimentals), how am I inspired with the great, the laudable ambition, of achieving actions worthy my prince, my country, and my trust. — Am I not appointed to lead a company of brave enterprising fellows into the field? — Is it not, therefore, incumbent upon me to command judiciously, and act exemplarily: no less depending upon my prudence, than the preservation of their lives and liberties, in conjunction with the constitution and property of my native land? — But are duty and love incompatible? whispered his heart, as he stole a side glance at the miniature. — Ah! by no means, if under due regulation. — But I am ill-qualified, at present, to reconcile them; as the former summons me to
a distant

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a distant country, whilst the latter invites me to a corner of my own.

A GENTLE tap at the door, by denoting DIXON's attendance, interrupted the MAJOR's painful, yet pleasing, meditations.

AFFECTION quickens the sight, no less than ill-nature; consequently, DIXON was not backward at perceiving his master's chagrin and uneasiness; but as respect forbade all inquiry, unless encouraged by the MAJOR's discovering an inclination to communicate, he silently received the several directions for packing up, &c. &c. and bowed at the conclusion, in token of strict obedience:

CHAP.

C H A P: XVI.

Contains a tale, greatly to the honor of the parties concerned in it. — A proof of the power of natural eloquence; with many particulars the reader must be prepared for, by intimations interspersed in the preceding part of this work.

DIXON's concern for his master had prevented him from making the observation, that, in all the directions he had received relative to preparations, no mention had been made of himself; he, therefore, hastily returned, so soon as that recollection struck him, and begged to know the reason.

DIXON, said the MAJOR, you know too much of my heart, for it to be necessary, at this time of day, to make you professions of kindness: if I loved you less, I should rather, perhaps, consult my own happiness than your's; but, as I am sensible of your uncommon worth, I am unwilling to expose myself to the hazard of losing you. — You are not so young

young as you have been, and I hope you are convinced, that you are not fit to encounter the dangers and difficulties of the enterprize I am now entering upon.

AH, sir, cried DIXON, with grief and horror in his countenance, what I so much dreaded is now come to pass; you find me useless, and would shake me off; but my infirmities are of the mind, not of the body. Do not then, I beseech your honor, continued he, with the most affecting earnestness, do not forbid my attendance; the apprehension of your wanting my care if wounded; and the impossibility of my reaching you in your extremity, would most certainly kill me; and you know, sir, a broken heart is the severest death human nature can sustain. — Is there, can there be any hardship you can endure, that I am unequal to? — I that should never have known (nor, indeed, was born to know) such ease and indulgence as your honor has obliged me to enjoy, had I not been so happy as to recommend myself to your favor, by a trifling accident, as to my share in it.

THIS action, which DIXON's humility induced him to mention so slightly, was
no

no other than saving a young nobleman's life, at the hazard of his own.

THE poor fellow had some relations at *Windsor*, at whose house he resided for two or three months for the benefit of the air; a succession of disappointments and losses in his trade of a *shoe maker*, having brought his health into a declining condition.

He was walking one evening very disconsolately along the banks of the *Thames*, comparing his present state *with what he had been*, when he was suddenly roused from his painful reverie, by a violent scream, and plunging at a distance.

He instantly forgot his own cares — flew to the place whence the noise proceeded — and, on perceiving a fellow-creature in danger of drowning — he jumped into the river, unmindful of the consequence; and, with great labor, and some little skill in swimming, saved his own and the gentleman's life.

As soon as the latter had, in some measure, recovered himself, he told his preserver he belonged to the college, and bade

bade him call upon him there in the morning.

DIXON, who understood this appointment as an intention to reward him, would have declined it; but the youth pressed him so strongly, telling him his title and family; and the poor fellow's necessities, from the inevitable demands of sickness were so urgent, that he, at length, consented.

BUT how were his high-raised expectations disappointed, upon the nobleman's putting five shillings into his hand, and coldly thanking him for what he had done.

THE MAJOR, who stood at some little distance and was wholly unacquainted with the merits of the affair (for my lord disdained boasting of favors) was struck by the visible alteration in DIXON's countenance; and, observing that he turned away his face as he passed by him (from an honest shame) to conceal a falling tear, his natural good-nature prompted him to follow him, until he reached a convenient place for conversation — when he addressed him with great humanity, and had

had no small difficulty to extort a secret from him, that did him so much honor.

THE MAJOR was shocked beyond expression at his school-fellow's meanness and ingratitude; and, having learnt the story of the worthy creature's misfortunes (for DIXON, in the soft sorrow of his heart, communicated all) he slipped half a guinea into his hand (his whole store at that juncture) and, as he was uncommonly delighted with the good fellow's countenance and behavior, he kindly asked him, if it would be agreeable to him to renounce all hopes of re-establishing himself in trade, and attend him as an humble friend.

DIXON was charmed with the MAJOR's goodness and condescension, but knew not how to reply to a youth's proposal, who, too probably, might not be at liberty, without the consent of persons in authority, to enter into such an engagement.

THE MAJOR, however, soon removed his doubts; and, as he was to leave school within the ensuing six weeks, it was settled, that DIXON should remain
at

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at his relation's until that period, and then attend his new master (as he was secretly inclined to hope, from the agreeable impression he had received of him) to the end of his life. Nor had either of them once repented their connexion in the whole eight succeeding years they had been together.

THE MAJOR left no argument untried to prevail upon his valuable domestic to be satisfied with his proposal — but in vain. — Sighs and beseeching looks were all the answers he received. — At length, overcome by DIXON's mute eloquence, as it was only through his own heart he could wound that worthy creature's repose, he said, in accents that did honor to his sensibility: Be it, then, as you desire — but remember, DIXON, there is but one greater misfortune can befall me in this world, than the loss of you.

Oh, cried the delighted, grateful, re-animating DIXON, never fear, sir, we shall return to our native land again, not a jot worse for having quitted it. — Your honor had the same cruelly kind objections to suffering me to attend you in your expedition for the recovery of miss PAR-

NEL,

NEL, but you know, sir, continued he, I told you then (and I am still of the same opinion) that your honor's life would be the care of heaven; and that your poor servant would not be totally neglected so long as he retained his consequence with his master.

THIS point adjusted, the MAJOR's perplexity respecting the conduct he should observe towards miss PARNEL, recurred upon his heart. To leave her in a state of uncertainty, or rather ignorance of his sentiments of her, and expose himself to the danger of being for ever deprived of her, was a reflexion that bordered upon distraction. He knew too well, that the gentleness, the docility, of her disposition, left her open to the persuasions of her friends, no less than her filial duty and affection. And as his love incited him to imagine, that no one could behold her, but with a partiality little inferior to his own, he trembled lest she should accept of some offer in his absence that might captivate her relations, whatever charms it might have in her sight. — And he was neither so romantic or vain as to flatter himself she would retain her hand unengaged for the sake of a man who, tho' he

he had made himself in some degree serviceable to her, had never directly solicited her tender consideration; and, for some time past, had, in appearance, wholly neglected her.

His scheme of discovering what place he held in her affection, previous to his declaration in her favor, began to sink in his opinion. It was idle — it was chimerical — nay, in a few moments, his imagination converted this once pleasing delightful idea — into base, dishonorable and disingenuous — would he try such a heart as she was possessed of with mean artifices? — How he abhorred the thought! — She was superior to every species of insincerity or deceit; and would, with the same amiable frankness that governed all her actions, have discovered the honest feelings of her soul, whether propitious or unpropitious to his wishes, on an application from him for that purpose.

He would, therefore, write to her in the first instance. — Why had he not written long before? — This question made him almost frantic. — If I am undone, cried he, in a transport of grief
and

and despair, by my own ridiculous fancies, I will never more return to my native country.

MATERIALS being at hand, he immediately began the important epistle; and, as his heart and hand acted in perfect unison, never was style so animated, so pathetic, so irresistibly persuasive. — He described every anxiety he had experienced upon her account; his tender hopes, alarming fears, and all the cruel effects of his imposed silence, in the most glowing colors; concluding the whole with an adieu so soft and penetrating, as could not have failed to have won her to his purpose; even if the business had not been above three parts accomplished many months before.

BUT, unhappily for them both, this letter never reached miss PARNEL, as the *Chester* bags were robbed that very post, and the letters thrown into a ditch, where most of them rotted and became illegible before they were discovered.

C H A P. XVII.

Contains the execution of a scheme already mentioned, — an instance of the refractoriness of the human heart, — a parting of the tender kind conducted with great resolution and decorum, — some operations of maternal tenderness — with a young lady's choice of a confidant — no less extraordinary than exemplary.

MAJOR BROMLEY having relieved his own mind from its extreamest anxiety, began to recollect what he had undertaken on the part of his aunt; and as he was no less inclined to contribute to the restoration of her peace from his natural humanity, than his real affection for her, he determined to engage Mr. JAMES CROSBY to accompany him to *Portsmouth*, and continue with him until his embarkation, which would enable her ladyship to carry her designs into execution; he accordingly proposed it to him, and it was mutually agreed to dedicate that afternoon to a farewell visit.

THE

THE MAJOR apprized lady HAMPTON of their intention; who, in order to spare her daughter the mortification of receiving such shocking news in her presence, purposely absented herself, enjoining that young lady to entertain her friends until her return. — A most considerable precaution, as miss HAMPTON would indeed have suffered more from the dreadful apprehension of her mother's scrutinizing eye, than any other circumstance in the whole rencounter.

So prone are we mortals to be deceived by our narrow view into things, — that miss HAMPTON was practising a favorite air of captain JAMES's upon her harpsicord when they entered, — her heart corresponding with the harmony her fingers produced, merely from the anticipation of the pleasure she should that afternoon enjoy in captain JAMES's unrestrained conversation; — for, notwithstanding the advantageous light he had ever appeared in to her partial judgement, she could not but conceive her mother's presence must have been a check upon his vivacity, — she therefore quitted her employment on their appearance, and with

sparkling eyes and unaffected complaisance bid them welcome.

You must consider me to day, gentlemen, said she, with a great degree of sprightliness, in the double capacity of lady HAMPTON's daughter and lady HAMPTON's representative, — some little though indispensable engagement has called her away for a short time, and she has commissioned me to do the honors of her house, and give you the best reception in my power.

I READILY excuse her ladyship, returned the MAJOR, affecting equal vivacity, though he was concerned to think of the shock he had prepared for her, and dare believe these gentlemen will be no less candid, — such a substitute, miss FANNY, is sufficient compensation.

TAKE care, cousin, said miss HAMPTON; vanity is a weed that requires but little cultivation, — and I hope you have too much friendship for me to wish to cherish it in my breast.

He has too good an opinion of your understanding, madam, said captain HENRY,

to

to conceive you capable of such weakness.

AH, sir, returned the young lady humorously, it is dangerous trusting frail mortality, — that weakness, as you deem it, has frequently proved too strong for the most resolute efforts of reason, or rigor of philosophy. It is such a *Proteus*, continued she, that if it finds a heart inaccessible in one shape, — it will instantly assume another; and, to borrow a military phrase, where storm would have been unavailing, by the mere arts of delicate insinuation, obtains a victory.

VANITY, said the MAJOR, to an amiable mind, is like a single blemish to a picture, notwithstanding it may be too striking to escape our observation on a first view, is soon lost in a contemplation of the perfections the piece is really possessed of.

BUT I hope, good sir, said miss HAMPTON archly, if you was disposed to become a purchaser, and there was a possibility of expunging the single blot you mention, you would willingly be at some expence for that purpose, — or was you,

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to continue your own metaphor, in possession of an unblemished piece, tell me, would you from folly or inattention render it defective.

How dexterously, FANNY, said the MAJOR, do you improve the hint I furnished you with, at once displaying your own fine sense, and converting your misjudging cousin, — who acknowledges the justness of your sentiments, and will henceforth be an advocate for unaffected manners.

INCORRIGIBLE BROMLEY, cried captain JAMES, — what an excellent foil do you prove on most occasions for your cousin, by treating those matters ludicrously, that deserve more serious consideration — though I will be answerable for him, continued he, addressing miss HAMPTON, that his private undisguised sentiments correspond with yours; for I have frequently heard him disclaim flattery as the most unworthy and disingenuous of practices, — contributing alone to furnish the merit you ladies are allowed to pretend to, by inciting you to build your praise upon the sandy foundation

dation of a fair out-side, which the next blast is capable of destroying.

LADIES are allowed to pretend to! repeated miss HAMPTON,—upon my word it is an excellent remark, let it belong to which of you it may,—but pray, sir, will you be so kind as to inform me from whom they derive their scanty privilege?

FROM us first created beings, replied the captain,—our authority is indeed of original date, and pretty established practice. What dreadful court, JAMES, said the MAJOR smiling, art thou paying to a young lady by reducing her to such abrupt clumsy subordination,—you should have kept to the windward of your ancient custom, and only intimated that it was very easy for her to inform herself of the origin of our superiority by turning over some few leaves of that history, that more immediately relates to the primitive existence of the species,—give her to understand at the same time, that she would have sufficient leisure to make herself mistress of the subject before our next meeting, as this will be the last visit we

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shall be able to make her for many succeeding months.

MISS HAMPTON'S countenance was instantly deprived of its vivacity,—the rose faded upon her cheek—and she demanded in broken accents, if their departure was not very sudden and unexpected.

THE MAJOR secretly sympathized with his cousin in the tenderest manner,—the contagion indeed went round—and even captain JAMES ceased for a moment to be lively—though without knowing the reason why.

MISS HAMPTON was mortified to the last degree, at the sensible change she found in herself,—and made many efforts to resume her former gaiety—but in vain,—captain JAMES, pale, wounded, breathless, presented himself to her terrified imagination,—nor could she suppress the horrible apprehensions of never beholding him more.

SHE was happily relieved from this painful situation by her mother's return, as it gave her an opportunity of withdrawing

drawing to regulate, and as she flattered herself, subdue her unaccountable chagrin.

ALAS, said she, when seated in her own apartment, why all this anxiety and perturbation?—captain JAMES, as a man of integrity and humanity, I ought to esteem,—as such only ought I to be interested in his fate,—there are so few amiable characters in the world, that it could ill-spare so great an ornament,—but what is all this to me in particular?

O BUT he is an acquaintance, whispered her heart,—you have spent many happy hours in conversing with him,—he is a favorite of your cousin's—a favorite of your mother's—idle, idle, suggestion, mean disingenuous subterfuge, cried she, in the daughter's good opinion has he made too great a progress?—he thinks not of her, but as the relation of his friend,—whilst she beholds him with—strange as it may seem—with unspeakable approbation. What a shock has my peace, my happiness sustained,—I have indeed a formidable difficulty now to contend with,—for whatsoever it costs

me, my too forward inclination shall never transpire.

How easily do we impose upon our own judgements, and, with RENARD in the fable, persuade ourselves the moon is actually a cream cheese, because we wish it should be one. —

MISS HAMPTON, like a multitude of poor misses under similar circumstances, had no suspicion, that her looks had betrayed her, previous to her judicious retreat—prudential examination, and heroic resolutions.

SHE did not once consider that expressions are not half so intelligent, as a speaking aspect—and that the eye can make a greater discovery in a moment, than the lips of a long conversation, — the former being animated by the real sentiments of the heart, — the latter cooled and modulated agreeable to the will.

MISS HAMPTON imagining she had brought her features under due regulation, and in great measure composed the agitation of her mind, ventured to rejoin the company.

ON

ON her re-entering the dining room, her ladyship and the MAJOR exchanged a significant look, — they indeed were convinced from the young lady's whole behavior, that the step they had taken, however cruel in the first instance, was highly necessary — and they separately flattered themselves, — would be productive of the desired consequence.

CAPTAIN JAMES, notwithstanding his heroics, felt some very uncommon emotions when the parting hour came, — the softness miss HAMPTON's concern had given her countenance, rendering her very lovely, and his heart involuntarily acknowledged, as he saluted her in his turn, that he had never met with any woman so agreeable to his taste. The impression this incident made upon him was so strong, as to continue palpably troublesome for two whole hours — nor was it even then dispelled but by the force of a cheering glass. It returned again and again — but every new attack was weaker than the former — until the remembrance became so easy and familiar to his imagination, that he was capable of rallying himself upon the little disorder

it had occasioned him, — he nevertheless found himself more abundantly thankful than ever, that his heart was composed of less tender materials than his brother's, — from the certainty of that consequential havock and devastation miss HAMPTON's image would have made in it if congenial with his.

LADY HAMPTON, instead of retiring as was her usual custom on the departure of company so late in the evening, re-seated herself by the fire, her daughter implicitly following her example.

THAT good lady now, the cause was removed, would gladly have softened every effect that might give pain to her beloved child's heart. She wished it was possible for her FANNY to forget the disparity of their ages, and distinction of their situations, in order to prevail upon herself to make choice of her sincerest friend for her confidant and comforter. Such a deposit would have been highly grateful to her ladyship, from the double pleasure of finding she had lost no ground in miss HAMPTON's affections, and the being enabled to open her eyes to the impropriety and unsuitableness of captain JAMES'S

JAMES's disposition ; she therefore introduced a kind of leading conversation to her desired purpose—as she was determined not to tear, but if possible win the secret from her.

It is with concern, said she, looking kindly upon her daughter, that I reflect upon the dangers to which a military or naval life exposes its professors, and how poor a balm to an afflicted heart, those stately monuments are capable of proving, erected by their country to the memory of those who bravely fall in its defence. The father, child, or husband, is too much to resign without a severe conflict : for nature's tie, my FANNY, cannot be dissolved but by rending the heart of the survivor ; to part, continued she, with the object of our tender estaffection, in the bloom, the pride of life, requires either a larger portion of philosophy or apathy, than generally falls to our sex's share. How could you, my child, support yourself under such trying circumstances.

MISS HAMPTON found herself so disordered by this searching conversation, and the unexpected demand her mother made upon her, that she did not dare to

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reply, lest her faltering accent should betray the secret she so anxiously wished to conceal.

LADY HAMPTON read all the meaning of her silence; and, as her passion was augmented, her desire of carrying her point increased, — she therefore proceeded in the same manner she began. The generality of the army is composed of the very refuse of mankind, as the coward, the gambler, and the libertine, who endeavor to conceal the several defects of their characters under his majesty's honorable livery, — but BROMLEY and the CROSBYS reflect honor upon their country, and their sovereign must rejoice in their services.

I CANNOT help wishing, said miss HAMPTON with a diffident accent, that my cousin was disengaged from so hazardous a profession, for we have no sooner enjoyed such a part of his agreeable company and conversation as revives all one's accustomed affection; than he is snatched away, and the pleasure of having met, is abundantly over-balanced by the pain of parting.

BUT

BUT how comes it, FANNY, said lady HAMPTON, that BROMLEY engrosses your whole consideration, — surely you might have bestowed some little compassionate attention upon the agreeable CROSBYS, — you was wont, my dear, to have a more enlarged heart.

THIS reproach went deep — alas, said miss HAMPTON to herself, my mother has already discovered me, — how mean and disingenuous must I appear for attempting to impose upon her, — I was not indeed accustomed to practise such unworthy reserve. This reflection was so powerful in its operation, that she almost involuntarily exclaimed, — ah, my dear madam, what humiliation do you oblige me to undergo, — I would shelter myself from your scrutinizing though maternal eye, — but it is impossible — you have my heart in your hand, and mould it as you please, — you must, you cannot but pity your child's unhappy error, — and will assist her in conquering it.

FANNY, said lady HAMPTON, embracing her, depend upon my utmost indulgence, — I grieve that I have been accessory to your uneasiness — and shall rejoice

rejoice to see you subdue it — consider my love, your secret is lodged in a breast that is incapable of betraying it, but will gladly bear its part in your sorrows, — and even by this confession you will find the weight greatly relieved, — I do not, I cannot blame your sensibility, he had every charm to captivate a young mind, — I indeed would have persuaded myself, that your education would have secured you from admiring levity, however pleasingly adorned (nay do not let me hurt you) it was requiring what is not to be met with at your time of life, — and my folly in judging of your reason by my own, is much more inexcusable than your susceptibility, — but I will not oppress you by any further conversation at present, — only intreat you will consider if there is any step that can be taken to amuse and divert you.

LET me quit this town, madam, said miss HAMPTON bursting into tears, — every object here will but contribute to feed my blameable discontent, — the country, the country, my dear mama, will entirely restore my peace.

THEN

THEN you shall not long want its efficacy, replied her ladyship, — very little preparation will be necessary for our removal, — and, if agreeable, you shall bid adieu to this town the day after to-morrow, — I have many things to say to you, that will abundantly convince you how important it is for you to stifle this passion in its infancy, — but we will talk it over at a more convenient season, — so saying, she rung for her woman, and hurried to her apartment to conceal her own emotions.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVIII.

Contains a violent and almost romantic prepossession in favor of a stranger, — some successful efforts of female invention — when, like a rolling stone on a mossy turf, the plot thickens by progression.

THE second morning after the preceding conversation, did lady HAMPTON and her daughter commence their journey, and in five days reach their country seat.

It was an ancient, but not ill-appearing structure, environed by a nobly extensive park.

THE river which glided in its natural course along the bottom of the lawn and gardens, was taught to flow in many parts of the latter in various forms, as canals, rivulets, &c. &c. and did not a little contribute to the beauty of the situation.

BUT what rendered this place particularly eligible at that juncture, was its vicinity to the city of *Chester*, where the amusements

amusements of assemblies and concerts might be easily participated,—a circumstance lady HAMPTON was predeter-
mined to affect to be highly pleased with,
as in her judgement solitude was a mis-
erable recipe for a wounded heart.

HER ladyship was sensible, that time
and dissipation would operate more
powerfully than her best arguments in
the restoration of her daughter's peace;
and that probably the young lady would
derive some degree of pleasure from the
participation of public diversions, pro-
vided she did not suspect she was taken
there merely for that purpose: for human
nature, though ever so perfect, has an
innate averseness to constraint, commonly
called perverseness, and will not be com-
pelled to joy; the very idea of an im-
position, however kindly intended, creating
distaste if not disgust. — Whilst, on the
other hand, by paying some judicious
and delicate attention to these particu-
lars we might alleviate the distress or
augment the felicity of our friends, in a
most extraordinary and extensive manner.

WITH a tender view, therefore, to her
daughter's repose, did this good lady so
soon

soon as they had recovered the fatigue of their journey, express a desire to be present at an assembly; for, as according to her calculation, her dancing days were over, she was only a spectator upon such occasions. Miss would gladly have been excused being of the party, but that was impossible — her mamma would not go without her, and said she flattered herself that FANNY would be far from wishing to deprive her of any entertainment. This plea was unanswerable — she yielded therefore to necessity, — but neglected every ornament of dress, since captain JAMES could no longer behold her, — then, with a tolerably chearful countenance, but deeply dejected heart she obeyed that lady's summon to attend her.

LADY HAMPTON was shocked at the settled melancholy that appeared in her daughter's aspect, as it too plainly evinced that captain JAMES had made a more lasting impression than she had been willing to think he had, but it was not her business to seem to attend to such particulars, — consequently she betrayed no other token of observation, than a compassionate sigh, which involuntarily escaped her.

BUT

BUT, notwithstanding miss HAMPTON entered the rooms with a determination not, or as she conceived it an incapacity, to receive pleasure, before the minuets were over she was convinced of the contrary.

AN elderly gentleman advanced to the seat she was upon, and making an apology for disturbing her, offered his hand to a lady who sat behind, and had remained until that moment perfectly unobserved by her.

THE lady denied dancing—but in vain,—the gentleman persisted in his importunity, and she was at length prevailed upon from a point of complaisance to oblige him. The whole company's attention were instantly engaged—and a buzz—of who is she—was heard on one part, the wished for information on the other. Lady HAMPTON and her daughter were of the inquiring party, and they mutually agreed they had never beheld so lovely an object.

ALL the world must be sensible, that a minuet is calculated to shew a fine woman

man to advantage,—no one thought they could sufficiently extol the graceful ease, with which this lady moved the elegance of her shape—or animation of her features. The gentleman, on concluding, again handed her to her seat,—and, in passing the ladies, she made them a compliment, that completed her conquest of their best admiration.

MISS HAMPTON was so indefatigable in her inquiries respecting the fair stranger, that in the end she collected full and satisfactory intelligence, *viz.* that her name was PARNEL—that her father was an eminent engineer, had apartments in the castle,—that they lived very retired; for, notwithstanding their acquaintance had been solicited by most of the neighboring gentry, she had favored only a happy few with their visits; that her father was evidently a well-bred man, but full of reserves,—that her mother died abroad, during Mr. PARNEL's residence on some foreign station, whose loss he continued to lament with concern,—that this was only the second time of her appearing at the assembly, and the first she had consented to dance, though greatly intreated.

MISS

MISS HAMPTON returned home, her head and heart wholly engrossed by this lady, — what a delightful companion must she be, if her intelligent countenance might be depended upon, — her mother's behavior was indeed all that was kind and agreeable, — but the same tete a tete would insensible have some insipid intervals — which miss PARNEL's conversation could infallibly brighten, — and then her mother, who was found of her closet, would be relieved from the necessity her affection made her think herself under, of doing violence to her inclination, in order to divert her mind from too heavy inclinations, — add to all these a more powerful motive which miss HAMPTON endeavored to conceal even from herself, that it was not impossible, but she might obtain a happy opportunity by this connexion of talking of her beloved captain JAMES, — in that communication an intimacy naturally leads persons of the same age into from their being liable to, if not actually under the very same predicament with herself.

HER mother's condescension was also painful to her (humiliating perhaps) as she
she

she felt the weight of an unreturnable obligation, but this lady if her features were not uncommonly deceitful, would listen to her both with pleasure and sympathy, either from anticipation or the reality of what she might then feel.

LADY HAMPTON was highly pleased at this incident, as she flattered herself it would be a means of restoring her daughter's peace and gaiety; she, therefore, resolved to leave no method untried to procure an intimacy between them, as the more she inquired, the more she was charmed with miss PARNEL's character, and she was induced by an amiable maternal partiality to imagine her FANNY's mind was in every respect congenial.

HER ladyship was of opinion, upon mature deliberation, that the best step they could take to avoid the appearance of absurdity or intrusion, was to accompany her daughter to the castle; and, under pretence of curiosity, with respect to viewing the artillery, fortifications, &c. &c. introduce themselves, if possible, to this almost inaccessible gentleman and lady.

ACCORDINGLY,

ACCORDINGLY, in a few days, their little scheme was carried into execution, and having been shewn every department that did not belong to the engineer; lady HAMPTON sent a polite message to him, begging he would so far indulge her, as to permit her to enjoy those delightful prospects, she was informed the ramparts contiguous to his apartments afforded.

MR. PARNEL complied with this request rather reluctantly, as the ladies were strangers to him, — but, as he was unwilling to commit a breach of politeness or hospitality, — he attended them in a manner that plainly evinced he possessed no inconsiderable share both of good breeding and good nature.

Miss still remained invisible, and the difficulty was — how to draw her out, — but lady HAMPTON, who was determined not to leave the matter unaccomplished, finding there was no other means revealed her whole design.

I DARE believe, sir, said she agreeably, that it is impossible to impose upon a person of your apparent understanding
and

and penetration,—my daughter's artifice, or if you please mine, must be too shallow for you not to perceive it, nor can I make a merit of communicating. You have a child, sir, whose character we are no less charmed with, than we were captivated by her appearance,—my FANNY is uncommonly desirous of cultivating her acquaintance, I can assure you she is peculiarly nice in the choice of her intimates, but miss PARNEL's countenance has so greatly prejudiced her in her favor, that she promises herself more satisfaction in her company and conversation, than all the amusements the town can give; your inaccessibleness put us upon this expedient, for we found there was no coming at you in a common way. Then telling him her name and family, she impatiently expected his reply.

MADAM, said Mr. PARNEL, appearing much surprized, you do my daughter much honor, —I have reason to believe my character, in this part of the world is but a whimsical one, —there are so many persons who are ready to be acquaintances, but so few real friends (I speak from cruel experience) that I decline the society of most, to avoid, if possible, giving

ing offence to any,—but your ladyship is a person I am well acquainted with by fame, and shall think KITTY particularly happy in the advantage your countenance and favor will be of to her. We have indeed unspeakable obligations to a near relation of your ladyship's, but as the tale is connected with some tender circumstances, I am not sufficiently master of myself to enter into it with any coherence,—I must refer you to my daughter for a recital of it, whose gratitude, though not more lively than my own, is more capable of doing justice to her great deliverer. The story is not much known in this part of the world,—we are greatly observed without that incitement, I would therefore be glad it should remain still untold, unless you, madam, should deem my silence an ungrateful return for so uncommon a benefit,—so saying, he prevented all reply by stepping to the door, and calling his daughter (and miss HAMPTON had but just time to remark, that it must be her cousin BROMLEY, Mr. PARNELL meant, notwithstanding he had been so sly and reserved) before he re-entered with her in his hand.

THE young lady's deshabille was such as would have graced a drawing room, nor was she under the too general necessity of apologizing for her appearance from that miserable plea,—not expecting company,—as if the laws of decency and propriety were not at all times indispensable.

MY dear, said Mr. PARNEL, addressing his daughter as he advanced towards lady HAMPTON, this is a lady, who though you are prepared to esteem and honor, you could but little have expected to meet with in this remote corner of the world. It is lady HAMPTON, continued she, the aunt of your noble friend, who not only permits me to introduce you to her, but condescends to solicit your acquaintance.

THE ladies saluted the blushing lovely girl, to whose retired life, they imputed the agreeable confusion she was under, though in reality it proceeded from a softer source.

CHOCOLATE was ordered, and lady HAMPTON insisted upon both father and daughter

daughter giving her their company to dinner, an injunction they were neither of them disposed to refuse complying with, from many considerations.

K 2

CHAP.

C H A P. XIX.

Contains some very useful hints for the young and gay, if they have but the good fortune either to possess much leisure or a tolerable share of understanding.

HAVING brought things into a happy train in the country, it may not be amiss to take a view of the baronet's family.

MISS MARGARET was all impatience for Captain JAMES's return. — She had no existence but in his presence. — It was an age since she had received the soft incense of flattery ; and she was too jealous of her charms, to be satisfied with their languishing in hateful oblivion.

HER niece gently sighed out the heavily passing hours. She indeed wished, yet dreaded, to behold the master of her heart ; from the too palpable conviction that every step she advanced did but lead on to the destruction of her peace and happiness. But, no sooner did she receive

ceive a line of information (by Mrs. DOLLY's usual assistance) that Captain HENRY was in town, and had obtained a twelve-days respite from joining his regiment, than her doubts, her apprehensions vanished into air; and she gave a loose to the most lively sensations of pleasure and satisfaction.

A DIFFICULTY, however, occurred that puzzled miss MARGARET's invention, and gave no small uneasiness to her lovely niece. The convenience of meeting at lady HAMPTON's was now no more. — It was impossible for two such agreeable young fellows to make frequent visits at sir ARTHUR's free from suspicion, and the consequence of their being suspected to have designs upon the ladies too obvious not to be guarded against.

MISS CLIFFEN was under the disagreeable necessity of remaining passive, and placing her whole confidence in the fertility of her aunt's brain, nor had she cause of complaint; for that good lady was indefatigable until she had fixed on an expedient that was productive of the desired purpose.

THE ladies had made their appearance in but few public places, notwithstanding they had been above two months in *London*; fir ARTHUR's avarice and avocations not permitting him to attend them. But they were by no means sensible of their misfortune until lady HAMPTON's departure, as her house had afforded them every felicity they either wished, or were inclined to enjoy.

MISS MARGARET's fluttering disposition was but ill calculated to support the miserable change of scene that immediately succeeded the loss of that good lady's company (and some other company of equal, nay superior value, she was wont to participate in conjunction with her's) and she was for flying every where at once to dispel her chagrin; but prudence, that excellent monitor, occasioned her to restrain her rapid inclination, and she at length determined to make her first sally into *St. James's Park*. She therefore condescended to give her lover due intelligence of her intention; or, in other words, appointed him to meet her in the walk next the lawn.

MISS

MISS CLIFFEN's suspense was become very uneasy to her, as her aunt proceeded with such circumspection, as to prevent every possibility of her forming one probable conjecture respecting the steps she was about to take, when the ensuing morning happily relieved her, by that lady's communicating her desire of walking into the *Park*.

SHE hoped, she said, with a look that demanded compliance, that BETSEY would accompany her, as the weather was fine, only a little sharp and blustering, and if they confined themselves at that season untill they had an unexceptionable morning, they might remain prisoners during their whole continuance in town.

MISS CLIFFEN, whose mind was in a queer half-satisfied state, consented to her aunt's proposal with pleasure, as she flattered herself there was meaning in it; or, at worst, that she should lose the odd sensations in a crowd, which her alternate hopes and fears relative to the desired interview with Captain HENRY occasioned her.

JACOB received orders, on removing the breakfasting things, to put on his best livery and attend them; not so much for the necessity as the appearance of the thing.

MISS MARGARET advised her niece not to make the least alteration in her dress; as she could assure her, that persons of fashion in *London* distinguished themselves from the vulgar merely by their *gentil deshabilles*.

MISS CLIFFEN's person, indeed, stood not in need of improvement, as it was at all times as elegant as her mind: but, whether her aunt beheld her with a prejudiced or unprejudiced eye, is uncertain; as, though she considered all ornaments unnecessary for her niece, she did not fail adorning herself in such an extraordinary manner, as if she had made the preposterous attempt of excelling her lovely companion. — Then, with the simpering two-fisted JACOB in his due station, they set forth for *St. James's*.

MISS CLIFFEN was not a little discomposed, as she passed along, at the familiar

liar attention the men paid to her by staring under her hat, proclaiming their opinions aloud; and followed her from street to street, in the *Gunning* taste. She wished herself at home a thousand times; blamed her aunt for not taking the coach, and declared, if those were the *London* customs, she should, with heart-felt satisfaction, return to her wonted retirement.

MISS MARGARET answered her very pettishly, that she was a most sensitive plant indeed, to shrink at such trifles; especially as she might thank herself for the better half of the wits that so much disturbed her; for, by suffering it to be apparent to every fool, from her ill-timed confusion, that she was newly imported from the country, she alone attracted that offensive observation. This invective was some relief to miss MARGARET's heart; almost bursting with envy and resentment; for she had not entirely escaped some coarse reflexions, intermingled with the encomiums passed upon her niece. But, as her whole motive in this expedition was the meeting Captain JAMES CROSBY, she persevered with amazing resolution, until they entered the *Mall*, where the first object her eyes

were blessed with, was the very identical one they were twirled about in quest of.

THE first salute occasioned some little confusion on all sides; but, as the ladies were arm in arm, and the gentlemen without company, it was the most easy thing in nature for the whole party to be pleased, by the gentlemen's filing off to the right or left, as inclination should incite, which was accordingly performed to their general satisfaction.

MISS MARGARET still cherishing the unaccountable opinion, of having been a great sufferer by her cruelty to her admirers, and never losing sight of the resolution she had taken, for several preceding years, of altering her conduct in that particular, to every future captive, was so amazingly gracious and condescending in this happy interview, that the enraptured Captain JAMES had the temerity to intimate somewhat relative to frequent visits at the baronet's, with very many agreeable consequences.

THE lady performed her part to admiration.—Communicated her well diffembled apprehensions of her brother's displeasure.

pleasure—and, in short, gave the young gentleman his lesson in so distinct and comprehensive a manner, as to render all farther instruction needless. JACOB was to be the principal agent in the whole affair; nor was the commander to take one step without him. Captain JAMES did not fail to make proper acknowledgments for such unexampled goodness, protesting, with many lover-like asseverations, that she should never find him ungrateful.

MISS CLIFFEN was an entire stranger to this conversation, as her aunt had artfully slipped her arm from under her's, and strolled to a convenient distance for a private conference, nor was the young lady so ill entertained as to make other than one or two faint efforts to join them.

IN a delightful moment, when captain JAMES was most respectfully pressing his mistress's hand, in confirmation of his vows of eternal constancy, the envious clock struck two. — Miss started at the sound. — And, as sir ARTHUR was expected to dinner, most reluctantly tore herself

herself from her admirer, enjoining him, in the same instant, as he loved her, to proceed with the utmost caution and circumspection.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

Contains a bright soliloquy, or, in Mr. BAYS's language, "A bob for the great ones." — Some overflowings of a vain heart — with a few quaint reflexions from the mouth of a sprightly chambermaid.

JACOB had not been long practised in his new occupation before he was visited with qualms of conscience, from being unable to reconcile the service he was rendering his mistress with the duty he owed his master.

FREQUENT soliloquies and self-examinations were the consequence of those rising doubts, and he was wont to steal into private corners, where he treated himself with the utmost severity.

Marcy on us, JACOB, he would say, how deadlily thou art altered of late! — Who would have suspected that thou, above all others, wouldst have hired thyself for gain — to do the veriest wickedest work upon earth — deceiving thy master?

DO TH

DOETH he not pay thee the wages thou requiredst of him? — Wherefore, then, shouldst thou suffer thyself to be so inveigled by a slippery tongued *Londoner*, as to receive wages of him also? When, pausing a few moments, his avarice would whisper, but is not madam more to blame than thou? — If she cannot withstand the bribery of smooth words, how should such a poor *feller* as thee withstand the temptations cast in thy way? — What will not the whole world do for money? — There is too much foul-play and corruption in this nation, for thee to blush at a small matter; nor wilt thou ever be marked out for a single ten, so long as thou hast the first *gemmen* in the land upon a par with thee.

How humiliating this clumsy simile, where the heart cannot but acknowledge it just! — How pernicious its effect upon a little mind! for with this salvo JACOB hushed every honest dissatisfaction into peace; and became as much at his mistress's devotion, as she could either wish or desire.

SIR

SIR ARTHUR, condescending to insinuate at dinner, an engagement he had made the ensuing evening for the play, enabled his sister to give her handsome captain an early proof of the sincerity of her professions, by inviting him to spend that happy period at *Grosvenor square*.

JACOB no sooner received his cue, than he disappeared; and miss MARGARET experienced the utmost anxiety imaginable during his absence. — Should any accident befall him — how alarming the thought! — Or should he be observed, and her secret become a sacrifice to the idle curiosity of some mean prying wretch — she should die with confusion and vexation. But her most prevailing apprehension, however she might conceal it even from herself, was, lest the captain should not accept her invitation with that degree of ardor she judged suitable to the occasion.

HAVING figeted in and out the dining parlor a thousand times, on various pretences, notwithstanding her real motive was a secret but with few; she at length espied JACOB, with a rubicon countenance,

nance, steering into the hall. — She instantly repaired to the little room appointed for their rendezvous, and, with palpitating heart and trembling hand, received the softest epistle ever penned by rough tarpaulin.

JACOB was no sooner withdrawn, than, first locking the door, this antiquated virgin threw herself upon a settee with all the agreeable languishment of a girl of fifteen. — Now shall I, said she, have the dear dear satisfaction of reading some of the handsomest, sweetest, things on earth. For no one writes or speaks better than the captain.

My neice, continued she, has truly the vanity to expect nothing of this kind should escape her, merely because her minxing ladyship has attained the silly period of eighteen; but I shall convince her, that men of spirit have eyes to see, and judgement to approve, maturer charms. So saying, she broke the seal, and feasted her sight on some pretty, tender, well-chosen epithets, that had been offered up at many a fairer shrine. They, nevertheless, passed current once more with her; and so pleasingly tickled her

too green imagination, that the abundance of her heart almost involuntarily flowed from her lips.

THIS letter, cried she, holding it forth with rapture, is a proof how vilely the gentlemen of the navy are traduced, when degeneracy of manners, depravity of taste, and boisterous wit, are imputed to them. — Or we females, added she, with great self-complacence, have a most astonishing art of humanizing them: but, as the song says, *What can't a charming woman do?*

A PIER-GLASS was most conveniently situated opposite the lady; in which, having viewed and reviewed her own elegant figure for some time, with uncommon satisfaction, she, at length recollecting herself, and rising in the same instant said, But I must prepare for his reception, and engage my cat's-paw, as usual, to entertain his brother, the only purpose I can discover the girl is fit for; and even there her highest qualification is the being unsuspicious.

MISS CLIFFEN's maid, who was ever upon the watch and listen for her young lady's

lady's advantage (for why should not meanness and cunning, as she would often say, meet with its match) happened to be in the next apartment to miss MARGARET, during her soliloquy, and distinctly overheard every syllable: therefore, entering at one door, as miss retreated at the other, she burst forth into the following exclamation:

WHAT a shame it is, that such an old fright should be so over-run with vanity and affectation! What nonsense has she been uttering! — And then the billet-doux. — What a curious rogue the man must be! — How little does this divine creature think for what purpose she it so be-flattered and be-complimented. — But she may thank her own folly; and, were she my aunt, I should not be so squeamish as my young lady is, who, I warrant, is now overwhelmed with self-accusations for the sincere part she is acting: but I will endeavor to divert her with an account of what I have heard, and apprize her of her lover's intended visit.

MRS. DOLLY was not mistaken in her conjectures, for miss CLIFFEN's notions of duty and propriety would not permit her

her to be satisfied with the practice of so much deceit, but she was entangled, and knew not how to recede, — the contrivance her aunt's, — the plot a mere accident, occasioned by her folly, — it was impossible she could receive any real injury, and she, undoubtedly, deserved some punishment, for her niece to have so many interviews with an agreeable young fellow, merely to serve a particular purpose of her own, unmindful of every consequence with respect either to her reputation or repose.

SHOULD she from a chimerical point of honor reveal the deceit, how should she avert her aunt's resentment, for having been at first prevailed upon to countenance such proceedings?

AND must not captain HENRY be the sacrifice, to what? — A phantom. — How could she answer it to herself, to drive a deserving young gentleman to desperation, — he seemed rather of a melancholy cast, and would retain the shock, perhaps, to the end of his life, — she could not bear the thought, — and the old proverb of, *In for a penny, in for a pound*, encouraged her to persevere.

SHE

SHE had just reconfirmed this necessary resolution, when Mrs. DOLLY appeared covered with smiles, and brimfull of intelligence.

SHE began with a sarcasm upon old maids, which was so evidently levelled at miss MARGARET, that miss CLIFFEN thought it incumbent upon her, to rebuke her for it.

How often must I repeat to you, DOLLY, said she, that you cannot displease me more, than by casting reflections upon a person I ought to honor. Her unhappy foible has put both her and me so much into your power, that, perhaps, you fancy the little services you render us, intitles you to speak your freest sentiments, — but it is a privilege I can never allow you, and to rescue myself from such servility, I would even encounter my father and aunt's displeasure, and forfeit all my future prospects of happiness.

DEAR madam, said the really well meaning DOLLY, why will you reprimand me with such severity : you know
how

how much it is the desire of my heart to please you, but I cannot always be upon my guard, — and I have met with such new cause —

WELL, do not mention that, child, said miss CLIFFEN, interrupting her, I would not give you pain, and do believe you would not intentionally hurt me: so, once for all, never speak of my aunt unworthily, and I shall think you merit my best kindness.

DOLLY thanked her mistress for forgiving her, and promised never more to offend. But, madam, continued she, you must give me leave to inform you, that captain CROSBY will be here tomorrow evening; I am sure my old lady was not displeased with the intelligence.

You must, DOLLY, replied miss CLIFFEN, forbear using the epithet of *old*. My aunt would think it disrespectful; though, in my opinion, those are the happiest, who have passed over the giddy scenes of youth; especially if they can look back without much remorse or mortification.

AND

AND yet, madam, said DOLLY, where is the person who is willing to be reckoned old?

THAT ill-judged reluctance returned miss CLIFFEN, is owing to the strange conduct of the world, and the too common wrong education of females. Discretion is so utterly exploded, that the ideas annexed to age are, consequently, far from engaging. Instead of honoring our seniors for their experience and better judgement, we consider them as merely butterflies that have had their day, and are incapable of fluttering longer: and, from the value we are taught to set upon the idle gaieties of life, as enemies to our enjoyment of those pleasures they are by time alone unqualified to taste, with either propriety or satisfaction.

WELL madam, said DOLLY, I do think you will make a most extraordinary old woman, you are so extraordinary a young one. — But will you not please to dress?

CHAP.

C H A P. XXI.

Contains a farther display of sir ARTHUR's perfections, — his turn for satire, and paternal tenderness strongly exemplified in a scene wherein his daughter is somewhat disconcerted.

BUT there was a storm gathering over their heads, that they were little aware of, for miss CLIFFEN's person had the misfortune to attract the brave captain FARRELL's eye at St. George's church; a place to which she resorted each succeeding Sunday, from a principle of piety; and, where that noble gentleman was allured by the single motive, of discovering some lovely female, worth staring out of countenance, a method of killing time he was peculiarly fond of.

HIS admiration was wont to terminate with the sermon, but this lady appeared so uncommonly charming in his sight (the second instance of real taste, he was ever known to betray) that he condescended to follow her, at humble distance, to her father's temporary mansion, and
make

make himself acquainted with her name and family.

BUT how was he delighted, on obtaining the desired information, to find that he had a friend whose intimate connexion with sir ARTHUR, might undoubtedly be of the utmost service to him.

THIS friend was no other than Mr. PETERSON, the baroner's prime minister, who had wiped off the disgrace of a mean and scandalous original by acquiring a very tolerable fortune. It is true, the means, though frequently practised, was not the most noble imaginable, handsome premiums for advanced sums, being held in but little estimation, except by such as have some private end to answer.

WHETHER Mr. PETERSON saw the profession in any disadvantageous light, or not, is uncertain, but he no sooner found himself master of a capital, that intitled him to look about him, than he became ambitious of filling a more respectable character, he therefore procured an agency of consequence, by cancelling the debt of a minor of distinction, which,

which, together with the interest, was no despicable gratuity.

CAPTAIN FARRELL's knowledge of Mr. PETERSON, was owing to a natural desire he too had experienced of anticipating the ample provision his father had scraped for him, at which period he had found him so very complaisant and useful a gentleman, that he took a pleasure in keeping up the acquaintance.

To this man, therefore, he applied for assistance upon the present occasion; who, upon proper terms, engaged to use his interest with sir ARTHUR, and, if possible, prevail upon him to accept so honorable a gentleman for his son in law,—nor did he despair of success; for the captain was one of fortune's happy favorites, notwithstanding nature had been singularly sparing in every valuable endowment, both with respect to his head, and his heart.

It had been settled some time, that Mr. PETERSON should embrace the first opportunity of communicating his friend's proposals to sir ARTHUR, before that minister found it convenient; but, having some leisure hours upon his hands, and

the captain growing importunate, he determined to push the affair with the utmost vigor, almost in the same instant of divulging it.

THE baronet had waited upon his female friend soon after breakfast, and had the mortification to find her much indisposed with a cold, a circumstance that totally unhinged his scheme of visiting the theatre, as she was the only companion, he either proposed, or wished to have with him at those houses. He, therefore, returned home sullenly silent, and making but an indifferent dinner, called for his pipe and easy chair, which was always understood by his sister and daughter, as an indirect declaration, that their company was no longer agreeable; they, accordingly, never failed to move off with the utmost expedition.

UNFORTUNATELY for miss CLIFFEN, the busy Mr. PETERSON fixed upon this unlucky period for the discharge of his embassy; and, dropping in unexpectedly to his great surprize, perceived the gloomy cloud by which the baronet was surrounded.

THE

THE agent soon learnt the cause of sir ARTHUR's chagrin, and industriously plied him with successive bumpers, in order, not only to dispel it, but give him a favorable disposition towards the business he had undertaken.

WHEN he had gotten him pretty deep into his third bottle, he made so happy a display of captain FARRELL's fortune, connexions, person, and accomplishments, that the old gentleman, perfectly elated with the prospect of removing his daughter in an honorable and advantageous manner, insisted upon her being instantly called, that he might give her her lesson.

MISS CLIFFEN was retired to her own apartment, when JACOB bore this unwelcome summon to her: she did not dare to disobey; but, with trembling steps, hastened down to the parlor, preparing herself to sustain some disagreeable lecture, though of what nature, she was far from apprehending.

SIR ARTHUR lifted up his eyes on his daughter's entrance; and, conceiving the

serious turn of her features to proceed from refractoriness, he accosted her in a very rough accent.

COME hither, girl, said he, taking his pipe out of his mouth, and discharging a volley of smoke, come hither to me, I have some news for you : nay do not pout so you ungracious huffy, cried he, raising his voice, but remember I am not to be fooled like your uncle.

BELIEVE me, sir, said miss CLIFFEN, with great sweetness, I am utterly unconscious of meriting the reflection you cast upon me; you commanded my attendance.

So I did, Mrs. *Wiseacre*, returned the baronet with a sneer, but I did not command that undutiful frow upon your brow, as if you suspected the business I had with you, and was predetermined to be disobedient,—but look you, BETSEY, added he, with great vehemence, I have once sacrificed my inclination to your uncle's intreaties and your whining, but shall never again make either him or you so great a compliment.

I HOPE

I HOPE sir — said the young lady with a look that would have softened a savage, but the unfeeling baronet exclaimed :

TROUBLE me not with your hopes, nor your fears, — what pray does your ladyship hope? That you may be permitted to chuse some beggarly rascal to inherit my estate, because he may happen to please your pretty fancy?

I do assure you, sir, — said the timid lovely girl, but she was interrupted with,

OH, dear madam, I do not in the least doubt your assurance — but give me leave to assure you in turn, that PETERSON has informed me of a person who has done you the honor to make choice of you, and marry him you shall, or I will reprobate you for ever.

MISS CLIFFEN was scarcely able to support herself at this unexpected information ; as it was death to all her tender expectations ; which her father perceiving (previously animating himself with another bumper) he said with a malicious smile, what you cannot speak now, — tears, tears,

cried he, whining by way of insult, stop your utterance, — but go, you obstinate, self-sufficient creature, go to your chamber and let the shower fall there, and in retirement conceal your folly and weakness.

MISS CLIFFEN made a respectful curtsy, and was about to retire, glad to come off so easily, — but her father was too much heated to suffer her to escape so slightly wounded: therefore, assuming a most imperious air, bark you, child, said he, now I think of it, I will not have you spoil your eyes with blubbering, — your face will not bear it, — it must be dressed in smiles ere it can please, — come, added he, let your father have one smile, — your very best.

MISS CLIFFEN, whose heart was ready to burst at this unkindness, lifted up her fine eyes, and with the most pathetic air said, or more properly sighed, — oh, sir!

Just, just as I expected, exclaimed the baronet in a tremendous accent, I asked a smile neighbor, PETERSON, and my dutiful daughter presents me with an — oh sir, — she has both a proud
and

and stubborn heart,—but is all perfection in her bright uncle's shrewd opinion; who a bachelor is so well skilled in the management of children, that he will needs dictate to me upon occasion: what a tyrant should I now be reckoned if he was here?—Then turning to his daughter, who like an afflicted criminal, was waiting her sentence, well madam, said he, you with your very dolorous, your very distressful, countenance, may withdraw; and, as a proof of the superiority of my kindness to your duty, I will speak a word of comfort to you, PETERSON's friend has done you the honor to bestow a favorable thought upon you, but I am in great doubt, from your unworthiness, whether he will persevere or not,—now troop, cried he, troop I beseech you.

MISS CLIFFEN had no sooner shut the door, than Mr. PETERSON, whose callous heart was almost subdued by the beauty and speaking eloquence of her aspect, expressed much concern for having occasioned uneasiness between the baronet and his daughter. But he was immediately silenced by that gentleman's sternly saying,

L 4

Look

Look you, PETERSON, it is a very unthankful office to interfere between father and child; an office which as you value my friendship, I must forwarn you to keep clear of; for I am, and will be absolute.

MR. PETERSON declaring with great fervility he had done, sir ARTHUR shook hands with him; and, ringing for another bottle, entered into a conversation which we fear would be far from entertaining to our readers, — therefore shall not insert it.

C H A P. XXII.

Contains a love scene upon an entire new construction,—a happy interview, productive of unhappy consequences,—a sudden retreat—with warm altercation, &c. &c.

SIR ARTHUR, though he was disappointed of going to the play, as he intended spending the evening from home, did not undeceive his sister in that particular, but took himself off, at the accustomed hour for that amusement, and again waited upon his sick friend, with a tenderness he was never supposed to be capable of.

MISS MARGARET blessed herself on hearing how roughly her brother had treated his daughter, that she was exempt from his authority,—she could scarcely consider such a bashaw as her relation, their sentiments and dispositions were so different,—but there was certainly no accounting for such things,—she, however candid in other respects, had the cruelty to exult at her niece's altered looks, absurdly imagining it would give her the

advantage; but, dissembling her satisfaction she accosted the young lady with, so child, you have had a fine time of it, I hear, my brother will never renounce neither his bottle nor brutality.

You never, madam, said the too generous sufferer, heard me complain of either.

O DEAR madam, returned miss MARGARET, nettling to a degree, I beg your pardon, — you are all duty and pious resignation, then it seems, — but let me tell you, Mrs. BETSEY, continued she in an angry accent, when a woman of my prudence condescended out of compassion to you, to take notice of the defects in her brother's character. — It would have been no reflection, even upon your extreme nicety to have acknowledged some sensibility of the savage nature of your father.

If you please, madam, said miss CLIFFEN, with the most engaging submission, we will change the subject.

HERE JACOB very opportunely presented himself, to inform them, that two gentlemen

gentlemen inquired for miss MARGARET CLIFFEN.

MISS MARGARET's brow was instantly smoothed, — her accent harmonized, and she ordered her favorite to introduce them immediately.

JACOB, making an aukward bow in acquiescence, retired for a few moments, — then returned, ushering in the gentlemen, with the utmost bumpkin parade.

CAPTAIN HENRY was so happy as to recommend himself in a peculiar manner to miss MARGARET's favor, by a compliment he paid her on his first entrance; and her vanity did not fail to suggest to her, that he was no less captivated than his brother, — therefore affecting a pretty confusion, — you are a man of gallantry, sir, said she, but you military gentlemen pique yourselves upon your genteel behavior to our sex.

I suppose, said captain JAMES, you look upon us tars, to be of a different species, but I can assure you, notwithstanding we are unpractised in the smooth language of the land commanders,

manders, we are as capable of distinguishing a fine woman from the multitude, ay, and making her sensible of our approbation, as the best of them.

BETSEY, said miss MARGARET, giving her swain an approving glance, we have almost two hours to supper,—suppose you shew captain HENRY those pictures my brother sent home yesterday, whilst I challenge captain JAMES at picquet.

WITH all my heart, madam, returned miss CLIFFEN, if the gentleman dare trust himself to my conduct.

I CANNOT, said captain HENRY, making a respectful bow to miss MARGARET, consider a relation of that lady's as a dangerous person, therefore, madam, with pleasure I attend your commands,—they withdrew accordingly into another apartment.

CAPTAIN HENRY, inquiring with the tenderest solicitude into the cause of that visible dejection, that clouded the most lovely countenance in the world.

Miss

Miss CLIFFEN could not refuse him his part in her afflictions; and, whilst they mutually lamented their unhappy destiny, captain JAMES was reduced to an absolute dilemma, in what manner to behave to an old hag (as he politely termed his DULCINEA) who had made so unpardonable an advance; but, as he had nothing for it, but to flatter on, he took her unresisting hand; and, collecting as much tenderness as he was able into his countenance, he said:

How generous it is of you, madam, to promote this happy opportunity, for a man, whose affection for you can only be equalled by his gratitude.

Miss MARGARET replied, with the most engaging modesty, if I had not the highest opinion of you imaginable, I should not, sir, have ventured such lengths in your favor.

LENGTHS, repeated captain JAMES, in an affectedly tender accent. Ah, madam, call not the steps you have already taken (favorable and gracious though they have been) lengths: Nor check my presumption

presumption in its infancy. How shall I be able, under such circumstances, to plead my constant, heart-felt passion?—How implore those eyes (miss gave them a soft twinkle) to view me kindly.—How presume to press this hand (kissing it with great devotion between every sentence) or solicit you to bestow it upon me for ever?

He was obliged to stop and recover his breath and recollection: fretting inwardly at the lady's unconscionable vanity.

OH, captain CROSBY, said miss MARGARET, with a soft sigh (stealing a look at him from the side of her fan, which, to conceal her no-confusion, she had spread before her face) how little did I think you capable of such agreeable behavior.

PERMIT me, madam, returned the gentleman, to give you the most ultimate proof of my regard: laying my liberty at your feet. And be assured, merit less than your's could never have attached me, greater I am persuaded the known world cannot produce.

THEN,

THEN, biting his lips, he gave her time to reply, by reflecting, that, if HENRY did not soon return, the cooping of his neck, or discovery of their plot, must be the consequence.

UPON my honor, captain, returned the lady, in a tender accent, there is no resisting you. With what eloquence do you plead your cause? and how foreign do I find your polite expressions to the general opinion of the world, that a sailor's elocution consists merely in oaths and ribaldry!

IT is to love, madam, said captain JAMES, it is to almighty love, that I am indebted for this little refinement.

SUCH *Russian* bears, resumed the lady, such sea-monsters, have I beheld, that I have blessed my stars for having no connexion with them.

MY education, madam, said captain JAMES (glad to give the conversation a less particular turn) was, indeed of a softer nature, than the generality of my profession have the advantage of, as I was intended

intended to encounter no other storms than what arise in the halls at *Westminster*; but, finding that study too crabbed and disingenuous for my inclination, I renounced it, to defend my country by blows instead of words.

BUT how will you be able, said miss MARGARET, to reconcile yourself to a rural life.

STILL, still, replied captain JAMES, with a sprightly air, I should be engaged in the service of my country: for, what, madam, should a sailor do in the piping time of peace, as SHAKESPEARE phrases it, but prove himself worthy his prince's favor, by furnishing a fresh supply of jolly tars.

Do not forfeit, said miss MARGARET, interrupting him, with an angry brow, by indelicate innuendos, the place you hold in my esteem. — I detest all impurity.

CAPTAIN JAMES, with difficulty, suppressed a smile at the elderly prude; but, catching her in his arms, the more effectually to conceal the inclination her folly
had

had excited, he cried, Thou unexampled chastity! — Thou —

BUT how shall I describe the lovers' confusion, when the door suddenly opened, and in stalked — not a sprite — but the substantial figure of sir ARTHUR CLIFFEN; who, finding his lady grow more and more indisposed, had strolled home at that unseasonable period.

MINERVA's shield could not have had a more extraordinary effect upon the baronet for a few moments than this sight: but, at length, recovering himself, he cast a most sarcastic look at his sister, exclaiming in the same instant:

HEYDAY! may I believe my own eyes? — Can this be MARGARET CLIFFEN? Yes, faith! I am not mistaken: it is my very sister MARGARET; and in the arms of a man. — What! and have you held out, added he, with a sneering laugh, until this venerable period, to be carried off by a hobby-de-hoigh, a stripling of twenty (viewing captain JAMES contemptuously) I, indeed, suspected your over-acted demureness, your outrageous virtue would come to this.

MISS

MISS MARGARET found great relief in a shower of tears, that presented themselves; and which she, with infinite distortion of countenance, poured forth, sobbing, I defy your utmost malice to asperse my spotless fame.

SPOTLESS! returned sir ARTHUR, laughing maliciously: yes, yes, your brother JAMES shall judge how spotless you are.

MISS MARGARET had so far recovered herself as to reply, with the most graceful taunts, — Do, sir, do make a handle of this little incident to injure me in his good opinion. — Do complete the avaritious desire of your heart, by a misrepresentation of my conduct, and obtain his large possessions for your simple daughter.

FACTS, facts, retorted the baronet, snapping his fingers in the most aggravating manner, will condemn you. — This is not your first trip, mistress MARGARET. — Remember the dancing master. — And this may be some such jack-anapes, for aught I know. — Had it been BETSEY I had detected under such circumstances,

cumstances, I should not have wondered. — But a woman of your years! — It is scandalous!

CAPTAIN JAMES, during this altercation, made but a very indifferent figure. — Conscious of the unjustifiable part he was acting — the light he must appear in — and the strange tale it would furnish the town with. — He knew not how to proceed.

HAD it been possible to have secured his retreat by even the most abject sneak, he would (as many a small hero had done before him) have put it in practice; but, as the passage was blocked up, he began to judge it necessary, in imitation of the fine gentleman in *Lethe*, to bully the old prig. He was, however, prevented carrying this design into execution, by sir ARTHUR's telling him, That he could not suppose him to be a gentleman, from the character he then found him in; but, as he considered his sister's folly no less inexcusable than his conduct, if he would please to walk off, he should, for that once, meet with no interruption.

CAPTAIN

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CAPTAIN JAMES's honor would not permit him to reply. — And, as miss MARGARET joined her intreaties to her brother's civil proposal, he decamped without farther ceremony.

JACOB had happily apprized miss CLIFFEN of her father's arrival: upon which information captain HENRY had slipped away, unsuspected as unseen, and impatiently waited his brother's coming, at an adjacent coffee-house.

ON his making his appearance, Mr. HENRY hastened to congratulate him on his escape, or rather deliverance, from danger; as the least he apprehended for him, was his being tossed in a blanket.

SIR ARTHUR read his servants a severe lecture, for admitting fellows in his absence, contrary to his knowledge; and forbade them, for the future, at their peril, to be guilty of the like transgression. — He thanked his sister for the fine example she set his daughter. — Intreated she would not communicate her intriguing art; and, giving her a few rough wipes, called for miss CLIFFEN into a private apartment.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



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